

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

Thursday, November 10, 2011

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Secondary schools to stay open under plan

SECONDARY SCHOOLS in the Welshpool area will stay open and no sixth forms will close, under plans to reorganise education in Powys.

Instead, Powys Council said it wanted the 13 high schools to be grouped into families in a bid to save money and provide a better service.

The announcement comes after concern that some schools would merge. A consultation into the plans will be held and will be decided on by the Cabinet on November 22.

Powys County Council unveiled its proposals for post-16 education at a press conference on Tuesday, revealing that there will be no Welsh medium education at Welshpool High School while Llanfair Caereinion High School will become Welsh-only from the age of 16.

Welsh medium provision for 11 to 16 year olds will be provided at five schools including Llanfyllin High School.

"We have listened and ruled out merger as a proposal but closer working is essential and we intend establishing a series of families to foster closer collaboration between secondary schools," said Councillor Stephen Hayes, cabinet member for learning and leisure.

"By working together in 'families' schools will be able to develop consistent strategic business plans, co-ordinate curriculum activities and deliver greater efficiencies through economies of scale," said Councillor Hayes confirming that Welshpool, Llanfair and Llanfyllin would form one of the family groups.

The council says savings will be reinvested in education.

Alcohol sales are allowed

DESPITE OBJECTIONS, the Montgomeryshire Licensing sub-committee has granted permission for an alcohol licence for a new shop in Cumberland Place, Welshpool.

The application was made by Mariusz Debowski of Europol Centre, Cumberland Place and he was given the go-ahead to sell alcohol from 8am until 11pm Monday to Saturday and until 10pm on Sundays.

The committee received objections from Welshpool Town Council, Dyfed Powys Police, 13 individual businesses and Puzzle Square and Cumberland Place Residents and Traders Association.

Balloon company lifts two awards

LINDSTRAND Technologies, the company headed by world record setting balloonist, Per Lindstrand, has won international awards for creating two completely different inflatable structures.

The Oswestry-based company says winning the awards has cemented it as a world leader in 'air cell structures'.

The two structures served

completely different purposes. Last year the company designed the centrepiece for the opening and closing ceremonies for the Delhi Commonwealth Games – an enormous floating aerostat, housing cameras and lighting and becoming part of the spectacular display itself during the ceremonies when light shows were projected on to it.

The structure took the Industrial Fabrics Association's International Achievement Award in America last week.

Its second excellence award at the ceremony was for a helicopter hangar that was constructed to sit on a Swedish ice-breaker.

Designer Lee Barnfield, from Lindstrand, said the

hangar had to protect the helicopter in temperatures as low as -30 degrees Celsius and withstand wind speeds up to 80 knots.

"It is the first of its kind to be mounted on a ship destined for two of the world's most extreme weather regions, the Arctic and Antarctic.

Per Lindstrand won international fame for breaking sev-

eral ballooning records and for his epic balloon expeditions with Virgin boss Richard Branson including an Atlantic crossing.

He said: "Winning the two Awards of Excellence in 2011 has cemented Lindstrand Technologies Ltd as a world leader in the design and manufacture of air cell structures."

Jobs joy as firm's new HQ launched

FIFTY JOBS are being created in Welshpool with a care company opening a new office to provide home care for elderly and vulnerable people.

Radis Community Care opened the office this week, with 20 people already employed and a further 30 due to join them.

The company, which is based at the Severn Farm Enterprise Park, will be supporting Powys County Council to provide home help to elderly and vulnerable adults in Welshpool and the surrounding areas including Llanfair Caereinion, Llanfyllin, Montgomery, Berriew, Forden, Guilsfield and Newtown.

Lauren Bailey, branch manager, said she was excited at getting the service up and running in Welshpool and she believes that it can make a real difference to care in the area.

She said: "We are a team of local people looking forward to providing reliable, first class care to people in our community."

"We'll be working in partnership with Powys County Council, other practitioners and providers and are also able to provide services privately."

"Personally I am really looking forward to getting my team into the community and making a positive difference."

"The team has been hand picked for their great personality, skills, abilities and values. They have also received an excellent training package, as you'd expect from a company that's won several awards."

New festival in pipeline

OSWESTRY COULD be staging another music festival next year with Shropshire Council discussing plans for a Party in The Park-style event at the Showground.

The event would be held around the time of the star-studded festival Osfest at Park Hall in May.

Shropshire Councillor Steve Charnley said: "We are working on having another musical event, either a week before or a week after Osfest, utilising the stage for it."

"It is still an idea."

BIRTHDAY WISH FOR EVE-LOU, 4

A FAMILY has launched a £30,000 appeal to fund life-changing surgery for their daughter, who turned four this week.

Evie-Lou Harrington, who celebrated her birthday on Saturday, suffers from severe cerebral palsy and is unable to stand or walk.

Now her parents Paul Harrington and Donna Henderson of Dolhendre, Llangynog, near Oswestry have identified an operation which, if successful, would allow the youngster to stand and hopefully walk unaided. And they are calling for support following the launch of the massive appeal to help put Evie-Lou onto her feet.

Evie-Lou was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of 20 months when her parents became increasingly concerned about her slow development.

A day later her sister Emilie, now five, was also confirmed as a cerebral palsy sufferer, though her symptoms are nowhere near as great. The couple have three other children, Leighton, 12, Diego, 10 and Olivia, seven. None are affected by the condition.

"It was devastating," said Mum, Donna Henderson. "We just couldn't believe what was happening to our family."

Emilie is not as bad but once Evie-Lou was diagnosed we recognised similar but milder symptoms and our worst fears were confirmed just 24 hours later.

"I knew nothing about cerebral palsy and wasn't at all prepared," said Donna. "I had to scan the internet for information, and have now identified an operation called selective dorsal rhizotomy."

"This operation would help

by Graham Breeze

"It is not a cure, but rather a neurosurgical technique used to treat spasticity and provide increased muscle tone in the lower limbs."

"It would mean such a difference to Evie-Lou's quality of life. She just gets on with her life and knows no different really, but to see her standing unaided would be fantastic."

"She has just started at Ysgol Penant in Penybontfawr and everyone there has taken her to their hearts."

"But she doesn't like moving around in her support and just seeing her stand would be like a dream."

"Evie-Lou suffers a lot of night cramps and rarely gets through a night. There is very little we can do and seeing her suffer is terrible for us all."

"This operation would help

relieve a lot of her discomfort too."

"The procedure requires intensive post-operative physiotherapy and neither the operation nor physiotherapy are available on the NHS, which is why we have launched the appeal."

The family has started fundraising, wrist bands are on sale, a ladies' night is being planned at The Ironworks in Oswestry and bag packing sessions are under way at supermarkets.

"We need every bit of help we can get and are hopeful that people come forward to support us," said Donna.

Make a donation by logging on to www.justgiving.com/treeofhope/Donate or text TREE01 to 70070 to give anything up to £10. The family can be contacted on 01691 860143.



Mum, Donna Henderson, with daughter, Evie-Lou Harrington, aged four.

Picture: Peter Flemmich

Police appeal over theft of tree

POLICE HAVE appealed for information after a four foot Christmas tree was stolen from a Welshpool home this week.

The tree and an ornamental kingfisher were stolen from an address in Clerks Court between Saturday and Monday.

"I'd ask anyone who may have seen

this theft occur or noticed anything suspicious to get in touch," said PC Joe Parker. "And if you have been offered either of these items for sale or have any information regarding their whereabouts please contact Welshpool Police Station on 101."

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Farming stories are recorded

FARMING STORIES From Shropshire have been recorded for future generations so past and current agricultural practices will never be forgotten.

Members of Nesscliffe Golden Years Club met on Monday afternoon to hear tales of farming from the 1920s to today from guest speakers John Suckley, a well-known Shropshire farmer, and Den Hockenhuil.

Organisers of the club's farming forum recorded the event with tape recorders, photographs and written notes. It is hoped that these will be taken by Shropshire Archives to keep for future generations.

Founder of the group Marion Kuipers, 68 years-old, said: "The idea to have a farming forum came about because many of our

members were involved in the industry in the past or have close connections to farming. During our regular meetings what members did in the past or experiences they have had often come up and many relate to farming.

"We thought it would be interesting to invite farmers to give their opinion on how farming has changed over the years.

"This area is a farming area and farming has been and still is a very important industry."

"It was very interesting and we are going to hopefully make some sort of archive for the future."

"We thought it would be interesting for people in the future, say 100 years time."

Farmers forum at the old school in Nesscliffe.
From left, Speaker, Dennis Hockenhuil, chairman, William Warner, and speaker, John Suckley, talking about farming from 1923.
Picture: Peter Flemmich



Hundreds preparing to remember war heroes

Responders sporting new uniforms thanks to donation

COMMUNITY FIRST Responders in Shropshire have new uniforms thanks to a £500 donation from an Oswestry pub landlord.

Rob Jones, owner of the Oak Inn, in Oswestry, decided to donate the cash after talking to one of the lifesaving volunteers from the Oswestry and District CFR Group about the work they do.

Nigel Keighley, from the group, said: "I was talking to Rob and he thought ours was a really worthwhile cause. He has been fantastic."

"We really appreciate the help he has given us with his kind donation. He has given us £500 which has managed to kit the nine Community First Responders in our group with some spare uniforms should we get any more volunteers."

Community First Responders are everyday members of the public trained by West Midlands Ambulance Service in lifesaving skills.

They are sent to medical emergencies by West Midlands Ambulance Service's control room while an ambulance resource is en-route.

Mr Keighley said the group was always looking for new volunteers to join them.

He said: "Community First Responders are in addition to the ambulance service."

"They would be trained by West Midlands Ambulance Service in life-savings techniques including how to use a defibrillator."

He said all donations were gratefully received and would help the work of the group.

"We would also welcome any further financial donations to help us buy the equipment we need and run the cars we use to get to medical emergencies," he said.

For more information or to become a CFR yourself, contact Cliff Medlicott, the West Midlands



John Roberts, Dave Arnott, Rob Jones, owner of the Oak Inn, Terry Foster, Community Paramedic Officer, Effie Cadwallader and Nigel Keighley.

Ambulance Service's Community Response manager on 07884 050877, the CFR Admin office on (01743) 273677 or e-mail cfradmin@wmas.nhs.uk or visit www.wmas.nhs.uk and enter 'Community First Responder' in the search field.

by Graham Breeze

REMEMBRANCE PARADES and services will be held across the area this weekend with hundreds expected to pay respects to the war dead.

One of the largest parades in Shropshire is held in Oswestry when members of the public will line the town's streets for the procession, which leaves the Guildhall at 10.40am led by the Porthywaen Silver Band.

Forces organisations, members of the British Legion, youth organisations and civic dignitaries parade down Bailey Street and onto the War Memorial at the Cae Glas Park Gates for the two minutes silence at 11am.

They will then move into St Oswald's Parish Church for a service taken by Reverend Simon Thorburn followed by a parade back to the Guildhall.

There will be a two minutes silence outside Welshpool Town Hall at 11am tomorrow, and the town council will be hosting an evening remembrance event in the Town Hall with the Royal British Legion as part of its festival of events.

Following a parade of standards, accompanied by music from the Porthywaen Youth and Training Silver Band, there will be entertaining provided by well-known cabaret act Steve Barclay.

The evening will conclude with the service of remembrance which is to be taken by the Reverend Sue Lawler, of Welshpool Methodist Church.

On Sunday, there will be the traditional parade leaving the Town Hall at 10.40am and annual church service at St Mary's.

In Llanfyllin, townspeople will congregate in the Square at 10.45am for the act of remembrance and two minutes silence before a procession into St Myllin's Church for a service.

Other towns and villages in the area will also be staging their annual parades and services.

Concern at council homes priority

COUNCILLORS And residents in Ellesmere have hit out at the provision of council housing in the town, claiming priority is not being given to local people.

Members of the town council have voiced their concerns over Shropshire Council's housing strategy and called for more homes to be built.

A presentation was given by Jamie Burns from Home-Point, which is a choice-based lettings agency that has replaced the old council waiting list.

He said the purpose of choice-based lettings was to give people more choice in the properties they were interested in and the areas in which they would like to live.

But at the meeting residents and councillors raised concerns with the way housing was being prioritized and that people from as far away as Birmingham and Manchester were being given homes, rather than local people.

Mr Burns said figures showed that just under 9,000 people were on the waiting list for housing in the area and about 25 to 30 properties were available each week in the county.

Councillor Alan Clarke, Ellesmere's mayor, said: "Local properties are coming available, but local people aren't getting them."

Hotel's spa shop launch

LION QUAYS at Oswestry is celebrating gaining a five out of five bubbles award from the Good Spa Guide by teaming up with award-winning skin care brand Declor.

Lion Quays, the area's largest hotel spa complex, will mark the arrival of the Declor brand partnership with a launch evening at 6pm next week.

Declor will launch the first concept 'spa-shop' at the waterside resort which will be open for viewing on Thursday.

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Trevor Upshall outside the Oswald Road display.

Delight at display for Poppy Appeal

STAFF AT an Oswestry elderly home care company have been helping support the Poppy Appeal by putting a display in their Oswald Road window.

Trevor Upshall of Allenby Douglas said he hoped the idea would spread and be supported by further businesses next year.

"We asked for a collection tin to help support the cause and then decided to take things a stage further and

put up our own window display," he said.

"There has been a big response from passers by."

Norman Morris, a spokesman for the Oswestry branch of the Royal British Legion said he was delighted with the display.

"We didn't expect anything like this and it is really good to see a local business supporting the appeal in this way," he said.

Annual festive fair to be held in town

THE ANNUAL Christmas craft fair organised by Oswestry Town Council and the Qube Gallery takes place on Bailey Head tomorrow.

There's a chance to browse around unique gifts and handmade goods at this popular fair with 21 stalls already booked.

"It's an ideal opportunity for finding a Christmas present with a difference," said the council's markets manager David Clough. "Come and find us at the Bailey Head in Oswestry."

"Amongst the many local products on sale will be handmade cards, jewellery, paintings, homecrafts, knitted goods, textiles, books and sewing kits."

The market is open from 9am to 2.30pm.

Residents' group backs push to reopen street

by Graham Breeze

THE IDEA to reopen one of Oswestry's main town centre streets has received the backing of a residential group.

The town's chamber of commerce has launched a debate over whether Cross Street should return to a permanent thoroughfare and the idea is being supported by Trinity Residents' Association.

For seven years Cross Street has been closed to traffic from 10am until 4pm as part of a town centre regeneration scheme. But there are views that this is leading to the street's decline.

Previously Wendy Unwin, vice chairman of Oswestry's Chamber of Commerce, thought opening it could help regenerate the area.

The chamber is now asking, via its website, whether people think it should reopen.

Peter Lloyd, secretary of the Trinity Residents' Association, wrote that the group would support its reopening.

"We have vivid memories of when Cross Street was partially pedestrianised, back in 2004, and the bitter arguments which raged at that time," he said. "A consensus between traders was never reached."

"Our aim was, and is, to achieve an appropriate balance between the commercial, residential and traffic functions of the town centre."

"From our point of view - and that of other 'inner circle road' residents like those in Castle Street and Welsh Walls - the closure of the town centre through route for the major part of the day led to an increase in traffic in our residential areas."

"We would, therefore, support the reopening of Cross Street," he said.

Martin Anderson, chamber chairman, said the body was 'acting as a forum for debate about an issue which will impact on the economic viability of the town'.

He said the management committee would meet to pull together a written document to send to Oswestry Town Council about the debate.

He said comments placed on the chamber's website appeared to be both for and against reopening.

Other comments included one that agrees Oswestry needs a more imaginative plan for the town to look at how to get the best possible solutions for business and shoppers' needs.

But said it's 'a much bigger question than opening up, or not, Cross Street'.

Another view posted read: "People have fought long and hard over the last few years to make town centres more pedestrian-friendly, so the proposal to reopen Cross Street to traffic is a bad and retrograde step."

"This is very exciting news for Oswestry and a big inspiration for all the youngsters in the area."

Delight as torch route is revealed

CAMPAIGNERS have welcomed the news that the Olympic torch will pass through Oswestry, Pant and Llanymynech on May 30 next year.

The announcement came after a long campaign for the torch to visit the area and was welcomed by Jon Hancock, one of the Oswestry Games organisers.

"We had been lobbying for some time to be on the route and now will have to start organising some kind of street party and make sure we get the crowds out," he said.

"This is very exciting news for Oswestry and a big inspiration for all the youngsters in the area."

Festive lights fantastic



Nev and Val Rolinson, from Nesscliffe, with their Christmas lights.

Picture: Peter Flemmich

NEIGHBOURS HAVE decorated their homes ready for a Christmas light festival in Nesscliffe to help raise cash for charity.

Neville Rolinson, from Nesscliffe, has been decorating his home with Christmas lights for the past 25 years. Now about six or seven of his neighbours have decorated their homes too.

The 63-year-old has got together with those living around him to organise a special switch on event later this month.

He has invited a number of special guests and hopes all the villagers will come along too to help him raise funds for The Guide Dogs for the Blind. The festivities will take place from 6pm on November 26.

Mr Rolinson said: "My neighbours and I have all decided to switch on our lights at the same time. Everyone is invited and there will

be a couple of celebrities as well. Martin Wood, Shrewsbury town crier, and Colin Young, from BBC Shropshire, will be there."

"We will also have a mystery guest for children and Santa Claus."

Mr Rolinson said there would also be food vans, tombolas and a Santa's Grotto.

He held a similar event last year and 150 people turned out.

The event is open to all and there will be donation boxes placed in the area on the night to raise cash.

The Guide Dogs for the Blind charity works to give blind and partially sighted people mobility and freedom.

It also campaigns for the rights of people with visual impairment, educates the public about eye care and funds eye disease research.

Kind cafe staff put tips aside for cause

STAFF AT AN Oswestry coffee shop have handed over a whole month's worth of tips to charity.

Staff at Gilliams delicatessen and coffee shop, in Oswestry, have raised £313 for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

They decided to spend the whole of October selling strawberry cupcakes and collecting tips for the charity.

Manager Karen Pugh, 46, said she had a breast cancer scare earlier this year and a number of other members of staff also knew of women who had been affected by cancer.

Mrs Pugh, who has worked at the shop for about four years, did not have cancer but she said others who worked for the shop have had close encounters with the disease.

She said: "It is an issue that is close to everybody as everybody knows somebody."

During October the business sold about 100 pink cupcakes and staff all dressed in pink for the cause.

Mrs Pugh said: "In the coffee shop the girls donated their tips."

"We did it every weekend in October."

Last year they raised money for the charity but the event only lasted one weekend.

"We did it all month this time because it is close to our hearts now," Mrs Pugh said.

"We always do things for Hope House Children's Hospice and the Air Ambulance so it was nice to do something for this charity."

Fashion date for charity

A CHARITY fashion show takes place at M & Co in Oswestry on Wednesday with the proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support and Cancer Research UK.

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200 pupils pay tribute
to a popular teacher

Paul Raymond

MORE THAN 200 Shropshire schoolchildren have paid moving tributes to a popular teacher at a memorial event.

Pupils and staff from Lakelands School in Ellesmere packed into the school hall to pay tribute to Paul Raymond, the school's former head of maths and CT, who died in hospital in September.

Organisers said they were delighted with the turnout at Saturday's event, which honoured their friend and colleague.

The event featured poetry readings, songs and a performance of Sir Elton John's *Candle in the Wind* specially adapted for the event by school girl group Not Completely Blonde.

Sophie Bellis, an assistant head at the school, said: "We had over 200 people there which was a lovely way for the school to pay its respects."

"The fact that the youngsters were here so early on a Saturday morning was a nice tribute to Paul. It was probably the earliest start some of the children have ever had on a

by Graham Breeze

Saturday. I knew Paul very well for 12 years and he was a good colleague and friend. The strong turnout was a measure of people's respect for Paul."

She added the school's design and technology department also made a bare tree sculpture, which was adorned with some 200 credit card-sized tribute messages, or leaves, by the end of the event.

FacebookThe memorial service part of the event was led by local Methodist minister Andrew Evans before the girl group unveiled their moving re-working of *Candle in the Wind*.

Mr Raymond, 52, had been at Lakelands for 12 years after serving in the RAF for more than two decades in his earlier career.

Mr Raymond is survived by wife Jane and daughters Rebecca and Helena. Former and current head teachers Ryan Jervis and Ian Sanders were both at the service.

A tribute page to Mr Raymond on Facebook has attracted more than 250 members.

At the memorial service are former head teacher of Lakelands Ryan Jervis, left, and the Reverend Andrew Evans from Ellesmere, former vice chairman of governors.
Pictures by Simon Williams

The memorial service took place in the school hall.

Snapper
to talk on
wildlife

ONE OF Shropshire's top wildlife photographers will be in Oswestry next week to give a talk called Wild Shropshire.

Mark Sisson and Shropshire Wildlife Trust have teamed up to produce a book celebrating the county's rich and varied wildlife.

Mark Sisson, who won the video category in this year's British Wildlife Photography Awards, will show a large selection of his images many of which appear in the book. He will also tell the stories that lie behind the photographs.

The talk will be held on November 16 at 7.30pm and takes place in The Methodist Hall, in Castle Street, Oswestry. There is an entry fee of £2 for Shropshire Wildlife Trust members and £3 for non-members.

The event has been arranged by the Oswestry branch of Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

Wild Shropshire has just been published and is available online from www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk and from local bookshops.Brian speaks
to rail groupSUPPORTERS OF The Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway will hear a talk entitled *No Trains To Meifod* at their next meeting.

Brian Poole, a well known historian of railways and industry will speak at The Raven Inn, Welshpool this Monday at 7.30pm. Admission is £2.

The group will also be holding a Christmas Bash, at the venue on Monday, December 12 at 7.30 at the cost of £12.95 a person.



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NEWS

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Bank and shops hit as power is cut off

BUSINESSES IN Oswestry town centre were left without power for just under an hour because of a blown fuse on Monday.

Traders along Church Street saw their lights go off and some were without power at about 10.45am.

Staff from Scottish Power were sent to investigate and discovered that a fuse had blown. The company believe the problem affected around 20 customers.

The power failure saw Lloyds bank bosses decide to close its doors for around two hours causing customers to miss appointments.

A spokesman from Lloyds, in Church Street, said staff closed their doors from after 10am until just before noon.

He said: "We had to shut because the computers and alarm systems weren't working."

"We lost two hours of the day and lost customers."

"They had appointments they couldn't make and have had to rearrange."

A spokesman at the Natwest bank said one of their cash machines went off as well as the lights.

Thomas Emery, a butcher from Nyham, said they had to get extension leads to power the back of the shop from another supply.

He said: "It went off for about an hour. It was all right at the front of the shop but the back of the shop was affected."

Carrie Morris, from Booka Bookshop, said she was left in the dark. "We couldn't make coffee, or use the tills or the computers."

Runners get ready, set go for Santa Run date



Some of those who took part in last year's Santa Run.

by Chrissy Symmons

FUNDRAISERS WILL be donning their Father Christmas costumes to help raise hundreds of pounds for charity at Oswestry's sixth annual Santa Run next month.

Organisers from Hope House Children's Hospice are busy preparing for this year's event, which will be held on December 4 and will be only the second time it has taken place in the dark.

It is hoped that by holding the event at night it will be even more special as runners will get to see the town's Christmas lights, while raising cash for the cause.

Vanessa Thomas, the charity's fundraising manager, said: "This is only the second time we have held it in the evening because you need more marshals."

"It is a really good atmosphere and people go out in the town afterwards. It is brilliant."

"It is also good for children to get involved and we are hoping for lots to take part."

She said the run attracted people from far and wide.

"We have already had entrants from Telford and people also take part from Chester and Wrexham," she said.

"We get people from a 60-mile radius and a few from London. Lots of people like the road run through the middle of the town and they get to see all the lights."

"We think Oswestry is great, especially at Christmas. It is well worth doing it in the evening to see the lights. It is a good community event."

Those taking part in the event will start at Festival Square from 5pm.

It costs £12.50 to take part, which includes a free Santa suit and a medal. Children can enter for free. For more information visit www.hopehouse.org.uk, call (01691) 671671 or e-mail fundraising@hopehouse.org.uk

The first Santa run was held in 1996 and is now held in a number of different places including Wrexham and Llandudno.

Contenders can sign up for quiz

THE OSWESTRY and District Disability Society has launched a community quiz challenge.

The team challenge will be held at the Eastern Oswestry Community Centre in Cabin Lane on November 17 from 10.30am until 1pm.

As well as the general knowledge quiz with a prize for the winning team there will be refreshments and a raffle.

Daphne Simmons, from the Community Council of Shropshire, which is supporting the event, said the morning was a chance to meet members of the group.

"The cost is £10 for a team of four people. More details are available from Daphne on (01743) 342161."

Doomed trees receive some festive sparkle

CHERRY TREES in Oswestry which were given the death sentence by Shropshire Council nearly 12 months ago are once again sporting Christmas lights.

Oswestry campaigners thought they would never see the nine trees in Festival Square decorated in the festive lights again.

Council officials want to fell them, saying roots were making pavements uneven. A Facebook campaign was set up to try and save the trees.

Oswestry-based PR consultant Jools Payne, who has led the fight to save the trees, said she was delighted to see them decorated once more.

She said: "The Christmas lights are one of the highlights of Festival Square. One hopes that Shropshire Council is maybe spending what little money it has on other things."

Town Mayor Councillor Cynthia Hawksley said: "The lighting scheme is important to Oswestry and the contingency has been made that we are lighting the trees adjacent to the memorial gates. Once the trees are removed we will be looking at all options."

Ron Buzzacott, head of highways and transport for Shropshire Council, said: "We are looking at the most appropriate period for carrying out the works."

Caer Caradoc sunset from Enchmarsh

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Food bank helpers to park free of charge

VOLUNTEERS WHO run Oswestry charity food bank will be allowed to park for free in the town after councillors conceded the current economic climate had led to 'desperate times.'

Bosses at Oswestry and Borders Food Bank asked the town council for two free parking passes after many helpers got tickets while working at the food bank in the Kingswell Centre.

David Myddleton from the group said two free passes for the town council's Horsemarket car park would help. He said neither the volunteers nor the charity could afford to keep paying fines.

A town council meeting heard the authority had received similar requests from other groups in the past which had been turned down because of fears giving one organisation free parking would set a precedent. But Councillor Christopher Schofield said it was a different venture. He said: "The food bank is a sign of the desperate times and maybe we should give them parking for 12 months."

Councillor Martin Bennett said: said he feared supporting the foodbank's request would set a precedent. He said: "This is an exception to the policy."

Village planning festive craft fair

A CHRISTMAS CRAFT fair will be held in a village on the Shropshire/Wales border.

The fair is being held in Llanymynech Village Hall on November 12 from 11am.

Fireworks celebrations bring £9,000 boost for 999 charity



The torchlight parade, organised by the Borderland Rotary Club, resulted in nearly £250 raised for the firefighters' charity.



BONFIRE NIGHT celebrations have helped raise £9,000 for charity thanks to the support of the community.

More than 800 people paraded with torches through Oswestry Town centre to celebrate November 5 festivities.

Many bought £1 torches, lit for the occasion, and walked from Festival Square up to the fire station where the bonfire was lit by The Treble Niners.

The torchlight parade, organised by the Borderland Rotary Club, resulted in nearly £250 raised for the firefighters' charity.

Mike Lade, from the club, said: "We had twice as many people as last year. We are very pleased. Everyone enjoyed it and it was quite an event."

When the procession arrived at the fire station members of the Treble Niners were ready with a bonfire and fireworks.

Alan Walker, from the Treble Niners, said: "It was absolutely awesome, it was one of the best bonfire nights we've had. The public support was brilliant."

"I think we raised between £8,500 and £9,000 which is more than last year. We are really pleased. When the fireworks finished the cheering from the crowds sent a tingle through the body."

"We have had a lot of feedback from people saying how much they enjoyed it. At the

by Graham Breeze

end of the day the success was down to the people of Oswestry supporting us."

During the day there was a guy competition judged by the town mayor.

The winner was Oswestry Youth Cafe. The youngsters had created their entry in their art session.

Liz Jones, cafe support worker, said: "We really enjoyed working on the entry and have heard he made it to the top of this year's Treble Niners bonfire."

"Part of the fun at OYC is joining in and supporting events around the town."

Firefighters thanked United Utilities for the help and co-operation.

Mr Walker said: "Despite all the work being done in the area they helped us."

"They gave us staff and built the bonfire from timber donated from Pick Stock."

Mr Walker said the event was filmed and will be posted on YouTube, on the internet.

He added that the team will be meeting up soon to see how to improve the event further for next year.

Money raised will go to the firefighters' charity which helps provides a range of services that enhance quality of life for serving and retired fire service personnel.



Volunteer Julie Ruler and Oswestry Youth Cafe youth forum members Tom Snodin and Luke Roberts with Oswald.

School text service will tell parents of closures

A NEW SERVICE has been launched to enable Welshpool residents to receive a text or an email informing them that their school is closed for the day.

Powys County Council has launched the My Powys Account service where residents can sign up to get school closure information on the go when the decision is made.

The service follows on from three severe winters where many schools in the county had to close due to extreme weather conditions.

Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick, cabinet member for change, communication and performance, said: "This service means children and parents can find out if a school is closed without having to phone or check the website."

"We are planning more services for the My Powys Account which will allow residents to sign up for online services."

"This is part of a number of measures we are making to modernise services for residents."

For more information see www.powys.gov.uk/account follow @POCSchoolAlerts on twitter or look for Powys School Closure Alerts on Facebook.

Top award for store owner

THE OWNER of an Oswestry fashion store has been celebrating after collecting a top award.

Trisha Jones runs Trisha's in Beatrice Street and after moving to bigger premises 12 months ago has been given the area's premier award as a Linzi Jay stockist.

The award recognises the service given to customers in the sale of Linzi Jay products with the Oswestry store coming out tops in the West Midlands.

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Q: I notified my employer eight weeks ago that I am currently pregnant with my second child. Last week I tripped over some loose carpet in the office, winding myself badly and breaking my arm. At the hospital they were worried about the baby and insisted I had a scan. It was very frightening. My husband was furious and said my employers should have carried out a workplace risk assessment when I told them I was pregnant. Is this correct?

A: Employment regulations stipulate that an employer should make two risk assessments - a general one at the point when they employ women who are of child-bearing age, and a specific one when an employee gives notice of being pregnant. The employee should give notice of the pregnancy to the employer in writing and the employer should then carry out the risk assessment promptly. The second risk assessment should be done in collaboration with the expectant mother.

The accident you suffered was not the result of a pregnancy related risk. It does however appear that there has been a simple breach of Regulation 12 of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations which requires that in so far as is reasonably practicable, every floor in a workplace and the surface of every traffic route in a workplace shall be kept free from obstructions and from any article or substance which may cause a person to slip, trip or fall.

If the carpet was loose it may be the case that your employer should have identified it as a risk and taken the necessary measures to secure it to the floor. This is therefore a case that you should seek advice about from a personal injury lawyer.

Further information relating to this question is available from Stuart Thomas, a Solicitor with GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194, visit www.ghplegal.co.uk or attend one of our FREE legal diagnostic clinics every Wednesday 2-6pm (no appointment necessary).



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Funding offer secures future for monthly village magazine

A VILLAGE magazine in Nesscliffe is here to stay thanks to a funding boost – allaying fears it could be scrapped after just three months.

Neville Rolinson, from Nesscliffe, started up the publication to feature reports from local groups. He wrote it, printed it and delivered it to homes in the area all himself. But after just three publications he discovered he did not have enough funding for it to continue and thought that last month was to be the final one.

After speaking to Severnside Housing he has secured fresh funding and will now be able to start work again in the new year.

He said: "They are going to give us some funding so hopefully we can start in January. It is a lot of work to produce the magazine."

"When it was published it got a lot of positive feedback. I think there was only one negative comment in the whole of the village."

Marianne Grant, senior community development officer for Severnside Housing, said: "Our community chest fund is set up to support local groups and projects."

"We are delighted to be able to provide this funding to help the community in Nesscliffe keep in touch and up-to-date through the local newsletter."

Councils asked to attend meetings

OSWESTRY Chamber of Commerce wants Shropshire Council and Oswestry Town Council to have representation at its monthly meetings.

The chamber has decided to invite both councils to appoint a representative and the town clerk David Preston and Councillor Paul Milner should attend to act as a "conduit" between the two bodies.

Town and county councillor Bill Benyon said he was already fulfilling a similar role for the unitary authority and meetings with the chamber bosses had proved useful.

Councillor Milner said he had already attended chamber meetings and it was good way of finding out traders' issues.

Community celebrates new play area launch at school

by Graham Breeze

STAFF, YOUNGSTERS and parents at Woodside School are celebrating the opening of its new adventure play area.

The playground at Woodside School in Oswestry has been hailed by the area's county councillor as a fine example of how communities and business can work together to improve facilities for the public.

The play area was part funded by water firm United Utilities and the Friends of Woodside School support group.

Members of the school council originally came up with the idea to develop the playground.

With the support of Shropshire Councillor Vince Hunt and governors Karen Kempster and Julia Williams, the school council worked hard to raise funds to pay for the development.

United Utilities, which is currently carrying out major work on Old Fort Road adjacent to the school site, said it was delighted to support the project and generously donated half of the cost of the development.

Councillor Hunt said: "I was delighted to be able to help with this project."

"It is a fine example of how the school, the local community and business can work together to achieve an outstanding result."

"I am sure that the children will enjoy the playground for years to come and I would like to offer my personal thanks to all involved."

United Utilities project manager Mike Holme said: "Nobody likes to see their roads dug up, and we want to thank the community of Oswestry for their patience and understanding while we carry out our vital work in the town."

"We've done our best to minimise disruption and we're delighted to have worked with Woodside Primary School to contribute to this fantastic playground equipment which will benefit children in the area for years to come."



Pupils were having a great time in the new play area at Woodside School in Oswestry. Pictures: Peter Flemmich



Back, pupils, Mikey Reade and Ally Lantos. Middle, from left, governors Julia Roberts and Karen Kempster, chair of friends for Woodside School, Sally Powell, and manager of the United Utilities project, Mike Holme. Front, chair of governors, Vince Hunt.



From left, Evan Roberts, Maddy Selby, Sam Lewis and Ben Coulson.

DJ and singer complete 60s night line-up

SUPPORTING artistes for the sixties evening at the Comrades Club Ellesmere featuring the Ivy League have been announced as keyboard vocalist Alan Herbert and revivalist DJ and presenter Ala Cra.

The Ivy League scored a number of hit records in the sixties including "Tossin' & Turnin'", and "Funny How Love Can Be".

The show will take place at the Comrades Club on November 25 at 8pm. Advance tickets are £12.50 available from Maxwells in Ellesmere, Heritage Centre Whitchurch or the Tourist Information Centre Mile End Oswestry.

Limited tickets are available on the door at £15.

Bookings for Santa's grotto are filling quick

A TOP OSWESTRY tourist attraction has revealed Christmas sessions with Santa at his grotto are nearly fully booked.

Bosses of Park Hall Countryside Experience, in Park Hall, say they have no idea why Santa's grotto is so popular this year but have found that they are nearly completely booked up for Christmas Eve.

Youngsters who have signed up for this year's visit will be treated to squash and biscuits before being taken through a twinkling tree walk to meet Santa. Parents coming along will also be offered mince pies and wine.

Rachel Mottram, marketing and education officer, said: "We have so many bookings and we are getting full but we will try to squeeze people in."

Santa will be at Park Hall Countryside Experience every day from December 9 from 11am. Sessions will be held every 15 minutes until 3.45pm but Santa will need a break for lunch at 1pm.

For more information or to book a slot with Santa visit www.parkhallfarm.co.uk

Courtyard on the market

A HISTORIC 17th Century courtyard of farm buildings has been put up for sale.

The grade II listed buildings at Great Fernhill Farm, Gobowen, which have planning permission to convert into three homes, have been given a guide price of £300,000.

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Don't miss the opportunity

IT TAKES some believing but it's true, the Olympic torch is coming to the area, passing through Oswestry, Pant, Llanymynech and Welshpool.

Campaigners have been stamping their feet in a bid to get the area on the Olympic map and now the confirmation has arrived. Since residents formed a committee about a year ago to create a sports and cultural festival for Oswestry, members have been calling for the torch to stop off in the area.

So put May 30 in your diaries now in time for next year because you will not want to miss a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the flame pass by.

I know that the people of Oswestry are already planning ways to mark the decision to pass through town with the torch and I think we can expect see the town's streets lined for yet another party.

There's a strong message here for the people of Welshpool. Let's make sure this is an occasion not to be missed.

All too often it is only the Town Council that comes up with the ideas for Welshpool. Why is there no longer a Chamber Of Trade or other organisations helping to promote the town?

Welshpool would do well to follow the example set by their neighbours in Oswestry where thriving groups are helping put the town firmly on the events map.

Yes Welshpool does have an air show, country and western show and a Christmas event but there is so much more that could be done if people were prepared to pull together.

WHAT CHEERED me up this week was the news that Powys Council will not be closing any high schools but instead making better use of the facilities on offer.

Secondary schools in the Welshpool area will stay open and no sixth forms will close, under plans to reorganise education. Instead, Powys Council said it wanted the 13 high schools to be grouped into 'families' in a bid to save money and provide a better service.

It does look like post-16 Welsh language education will be

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

with Graham Breeze



centred at Llanfair Caereinion at the expense of Welshpool but that makes sense and the creation of 'family' groups with Welshpool, Llanfair and Llanfyllin linked together can only strengthen education across the region.

It's always easy to criticise Powys County Council and although some schools will certainly suffer as a result of these changes the most important thing is the welfare of the students. Powys look to have got things right this time.

WHAT UPSET me this week was the plight of a four-year-old from Llanfyllin who needs life-changing surgery to enable her to stand and hopefully walk.

Evie-Lou Harrington, highlighted on our front page this week, is the daughter of Paul Harrington and Donna Henderson and is one of two of the couple's five children who suffers from cerebral palsy.

She is confined to either a wheelchair or a walking frame by this terrible illness yet an operation could improve her life so much. The sad thing is that the operation known as selective dorsal rhizotomy is not available on the National Health and will cost over £30,000 – a figure the family can not afford. It is not a cure, it's a neurosurgical technique used to treat spasticity and provide increased muscle tone in the lower limbs, but it will mean such a difference to this delightful child's young life.

I urge anyone who can help to make a donation by logging on to <http://www.justgiving.com/treofhope/Donate> or by text at TREE01 to 70070 to give anything up to £10.

Nail-biting night as 13 are whittled down to finalists

IT WAS A nail-biting event at Oswestry's The Venue when hopeful singers performed in a bid to secure a place at the O Factor finals.

Members of the audience poured into The Venue in Park Hall to watch 13 talented people battling it out for a spot in the finals on November 18.

Judges had to whittle them down to just eight finalists.

The winners were Hannah Scott Davies of Ellesmere, who sang *Don't Rain on My Parade*; Ellesmere girl band Not Completely Blonde which sang *Your Song*; and Nid Williams from St Martins who sang *Don't Stop Believing*.

Joining them from Oswestry are Cupid's Brother which sang their own song *Cara Hammond* who sang *Young*; Jamie Neale who sang *The Voice*

Within, Tom and Sam; and Paige Victoria who sang a tune from Maroon Five.

Sarah Barton, from The Venue, said: "The semi-finals were tough for the judges. It was harder than last year. This time it was also a little controversial."

"I thought there were a few people that didn't go through that deserved to. It was a brilliant night."

"It was a packed audience too. There must have been about 200 people watching."

"Now we all have our fingers crossed for the finals." This year's top prizes include cash and a day in a local recording studio.

Judges for the event included Hazel Davies, who is experienced in operatic singing, Malcolm Lord, a full time professional actor, and TNS footballer Chris Williams.

Val's marathon effort for sport rewarded

PROFILE

By Carl Jones

AN OSWESTRY role model who has dedicated more than 30 years to the Special Olympics movement was rewarded for her outstanding contribution at a county awards ceremony.

Val Hanover received a standing ovation when she collected the William Penney Brookes trophy at the fifth annual Energize awards, held at Shrewsbury Town football club.

The awards, run in partnership with the Shropshire Star, celebrate the driving forces behind grass roots sport and exercise initiatives across the county.

The judges said: "Valerie's years of hard work and dedication have meant local people with learning disabilities have been able to learn and take part in a variety of sports and go on to compete – and in many cases, achieve success – on an international level."

Fastest

Mrs Hanover was one of 12 winners at the event, where England cricket legend Graham Gooch was guest speaker.

Others included Wrekin cyclist Richard Smith, who had a liver transplant in 1993 and is now the fastest transplant cyclist in the world.

Natalie Bathers of Oswestry Olympians was named young volunteer of the year, and Harper Adams University College near Newport was recognised for its commitment to helping its workforce to be physically active.

● Awards – turn to back page



Val Hanover at work.

Picture: Ian Sheppard



At the Energize Awards 2011, held at Greenhouse Meadow, Shrewsbury, guest speaker Graham Gooch, presents the Penny Brookes Trophy to Val Hanover.
Picture: Peter Shah

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LETTERS & NEWS

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Hospital in deal to highlight market

BOSSSES AT Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital are doing their bit to help their local town market thrive.

A deal has been struck to promote Oswestry's indoor and outdoor markets at the Gobowen-based hospital.

A report from Oswestry Town Council's markets manager David Clough said: "A two-year promotional campaign has been agreed with the orthopaedic hospital in Gobowen which has up to 200,000 visitors per year."

"As part of their new facility improvements, 15 large map signs will be situated around the complex as well as 30 smaller ones, all with an Oswestry Market advertisement located on them."

"The advertisement will also be prominent on their new website, with a link to the market's own website, plus 70,000 leaflets per year will be posted to patient households, all including the market advertisement."

"This local hospital sees thousands of visitors from all around the country each year and having Oswestry Market clearly visible is a real benefit."

Town councillors noted the report.

Youngsters coin it in for charity challenge

BUDDING APPRENTICES were asked to come up with creative ideas to turn £1 into hundreds of pounds for charity.

Pupils from Ysgol Pen-nant, in Pen-y-bont-fawr, were handed the coin and given the challenge to turn it into as much cash as possible over the holidays.

The youngsters jumped at the chance to start up their own businesses and one pupil used their coin to buy a hen.

They waited for it to lay some eggs which they then sold to help boost their coffers.

Another pupil collected spare horseshoes and with their £1 they bought some silver paint to repaint them.

These were then sold to people as lucky charms.

Other initiatives included buying window cleaner to start a cleaning business, buying beads to create jewellery and baking cakes.

The project helped schoolchildren to raise £240 which they then split between The East Africa Crisis Appeal, the school's ward at Oswestry's Orthopaedic Hospital and school equipment.

Mystery of landlocked boat

DOES ANYONE know why this landlocked service boat sits tethered among the reeds of the Montgomery Canal, just beyond Four Crosses?

It almost certainly cannot go backwards or forwards, but is securely held with a blue rope. And, if it has been there a while, it was pretty well made, as it's still afloat.

In contrast, the canal towpath alongside it is kept in pristine order and makes a wonderful uninterrupted linear walk all the way from Maesbury to where the A483 cuts the canal just beyond Four Crosses.

The towpath does start up again, however, on the Breiddens' side of the A483, and continues to Welshpool after another interruption.

If the boat was doing some maintenance work, its future seems mighty dodgy, with only swans, moorhens and ducks to keep it company – and no hope of escape!

DAVID PARRY-JONES, Treflach



The marooned Four Crosses canal boat.

Cameron proved just as shift as predecessors

ON OCTOBER 24, David Cameron showed himself to be just as shift, untrustworthy and devious as many of his predecessors – Heath, Wilson, Blair and Brown spring to mind – or any of the leaders of the other member countries of the European Union.

All have dispensed with any semblance of democracy.

All display utter contempt for the electorate and all think that they know best what is good for us and what is right for our country.

What about the farcical parliamentary discussion on whether or not we should hold a referendum that was deemed to be non-binding before it began? Specious was how it was

described in the paper (based on pretence, deceptively pleasing).

It was an insult to every person who signed the petition which spawned it.

David Cameron tells us that now is not the time to threaten the European Union with a "get us out".

Now is exactly the time for a referendum while the eurozone is focused on keeping its currency alive.

Leave it till the euro is sorted and France and Germany will tear our docile, incompetent politicians to pieces, and inflict upon us every possible pernicious measure they can find – they have been doing it for 38 years.

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Metal thieves are a disgrace

A FEW YEARS ago it would have been unthinkable, a sacrilege, for anyone to desecrate war memorials and steal metal name plaques of the fallen.

What sort of people are living in Britain today who can do this? Are they so desperate, poor, hungry, have no other income but this? Have the police built up a profile?

Lead off churches and schools and many metal grid covers have been stolen from sites around Oswestry.

Some scrap metal merchants must be receiving the stolen metal and perhaps melting it down. They should be required to keep detailed records of their dealings and install CCTV cameras.

J MCCARTHY,
Oswestry

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU	01952 254605	letters@oswestry chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Chance to share views on blue badge scheme

SHROPSHIRE Disability Network have been asked by Shropshire Council to make people aware that they are reviewing their decisions about blue badge holders' parking fees in off-road car parks in Shropshire.

They are encouraging people with a disability and their carers to respond to Shropshire Council's consultation on proposed changes to the blue badge scheme to do so by November 16. No information is available via the council's telephone system.

No specific questions are being asked – responses must be made via email to Samantha.Tharme@Shropshire.gov.uk or by letter/post to Samantha Tharme, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6ND.

Complete details of this consultation can be found at www.shropshire-disability.net

Sonia Roberts, chair of SDN, said at a recent meeting: "I cannot stress enough how important it is that people in Shropshire

make their feelings known to our council on this subject."

"Many who attended the recent Hardest Hit Debate Shropshire will have heard the real concerns and worries regarding the difficulties that some of our most vulnerable people endure when trying to carry out tasks which many of us take for granted."

"I would urge your people to look at full details on our website and then write their comments and send to Shropshire Council either online or by post."

People who have no computer access can call Ruby Hartshorn on 01743 340832 or Trevor Dickenson on 01952 261146 for further details.

Most importantly, please get your comments in by November 16.

RUBY HARTSHORN, on behalf of Shropshire Disability Network, Radbrook Green, Shrewsbury.

Strokes could be avoided in future

WITH OVER 20,000 strokes every year in the UK that are AF-related and, says the Department of Health, at least three-quarters are preventable.

A letter from the Welsh Assembly Government in March launched 'Ask First to prevent a stroke later' a campaign to reduce the risk of people developing a stroke.

It said from a GP perspective, GPs are expected to make full use of professional guidance (such as SIGN and NICE) and to discuss treatment options with patients when agreeing a management plan. The Quality and Outcomes Framework for GPs includes the development of an Atrial Fibrillation Register and consideration of anticoagulation and antiplatelet therapy for each patient taking into account risks, benefits and patient preference.

Local Health Boards are responsible for the quality of assurance of GP services, including the Quality Outcomes Framework process. The Welsh Assembly appears to be using a different system to that in England where more GPs will be using GRASP-AF tool. It stands for Guidance on Risk Assessment and Stroke Prevention in AF who are known to be at increased stroke risk and not on warfarin.

AFA says AF-related strokes could be preventable by early detection of AF and appropriate anticoagulation. Currently there are about 7,500 new strokes per year in Wales.

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NEWS

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Charlotte's fund aiding community

by Graham Breeze

A NEW Oswestry help group has received a cash boost from a foundation set up in memory of Shropshire schoolgirl Charlotte Hartley.

And the foundation has also helped a county schoolboy with his dream of representing his country at wheelchair basketball.

A cheque for £500 was given to Oswestry volunteer group Osyteers leader Mike Lade from Charlotte's father Karl Hartley.

Osyteers was set up earlier this year to help the elderly and vulnerable.

Mr Lade said: "We are very grateful for this support from the foundation and it will enable us to purchase a much needed trailer to help us in our work in the community in and around Oswestry."



Mike Lade from Osyteers receives the cheque from Karl Hartley of the Charlotte Hartley Foundation.

The foundation has also contributed to the cost of providing a sports wheelchair to Oswestry student and promising sportsman Charlie Fryer-Stevens.

The foundation has gifted £500 to help cover the cost, although the final cost will be somewhere nearer to £4,000. The foundation was set up by family members after Charlotte's death in July 2009.

The 16-year-old, from Bronygarth was misdiagnosed as having swine flu and died from complications caused by tonsillitis.

An inquest highlighted various shortcomings in Charlotte's NHS care.

Sixth formers help heritage project



Oswestry Sixth Form students Alice Greville and Rebecca Evans help out at Cambrian Heritage Railways.

PUPILS FROM a Shropshire school have been praised for the work they are doing to help preserve one of the county's most historic heritage sites.

Sixth form students from Oswestry School have been visiting Cambrian Heritage Railways in the town on a weekly basis as part of a community project.

They have been involved in a number of activities to help with the upkeep of the site including painting gateways, clearing litter from the railway and general maintenance of the station.

Andrew Tulle, ecology co-ordinator for Cambrian Heritage Railways, said:

"We very much welcome the school's interest in helping us."

"The students who join us from the school each Thursday afternoon are an interested and enthusiastic group of sixth formers."

"The railway has been prioritised as an area for development and Oswestry as a town is keen to see its continuation as a much loved heritage site."

"The Oswestry School students seem genuinely interested and enthusiastic in contributing to the project and for that we are very grateful."

The students are carrying out its work as part of a community action project.

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WELSHPOOL

01691 668094

Rehearsing ready for Peter Pan pantomime

YES IT'S THAT time again, shouts of 'He's behind you' and 'oh no he isn't' will soon fill the air at Welshpool High School as rehearsals for the school pantomime **Peter Pan** get underway.

After the past success of shows such as *Oliver*, the school's drama department are looking to put their own stamp on J.M. Barrie's classic tale of the boy who never grew up.

Fiona Davies, head of the drama department said: "I'm very pleased with the progress that the cast have made in such a short time."

"We recently did a run-through and it's great to see how it's all coming together."

"Peter Pan's a really good show to perform as there's loads of parts for everyone to get involved with. We're all really excited as the show's going to be really vibrant and fun, perfect for Christmas really."

The cast, which consists of around 100 Year 8 to Year 13 pupils, are currently hard at work bringing Neverland to life by por-

by Graham Breeze

traying the usual set of *Lost Boys*, *Pirates and Indians*.

"The cast are all working very hard during rehearsals" said assistant director Lucy French. "There's also been a great effort from members of staff who are helping out with music, lighting and sourcing items for the sets."

The coveted roles of Peter Pan and his arch rival Captain Hook will be played by Year 11 pupil Elen Roberts and Year 13 student Jack Williams.

"Playing Peter Pan is great fun. I really enjoy all the action involved with it and the songs in the show are really good to sing. Rehearsals are also lots of fun, even though they can be hard work sometimes," said Elen.

"Captain Hook's a really good character to play because he's very flamboyant and eccentric," said Jack.

Performances will be on December 13, 14 and 15. Tickets are available through the school office or the drama department.

Councillor to front dyslexia roadshow

A ROADSHOW providing information on dyslexia and the support available takes place in Welshpool later this month.

Powys County Council chairman, Councillor Barry Thomas, is spearheading the roadshow after recently announcing that he was a dyslexia sufferer himself.

"For my year as chairman, I have chosen to highlight dyslexia and do all I can to raise local awareness about the condition," said Cllr Thomas.

"I have had dyslexia all my life and I want to try and remove the stigma around it. In reality, dyslexia is very common and affects around 1 in 10 of us."

"But it doesn't have to be a limitation, and like many people, I have found ways of coping with the condition."

"I extend a warm invitation for people to attend the roadshow to find out more about dyslexia."

The roadshow takes place between 9.30am and 4pm at the Corn Exchange on Monday, November 21.

Cllr Thomas is also raising funds for a dyslexia charity through a series of other events.



WELSHPOOL Ramblers enjoyed an eight-mile walk in the Ellesmere area, led by Linda Lyons when 13 members followed an eight-mile circular route from The Mere. Walkers are pictured on the towpath of the Shropshire Union Canal.

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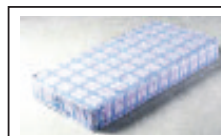
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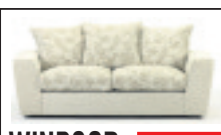
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AM asks for county to be included in business zone

ASSEMBLY Member Russell George, has written to Welsh Business and Enterprise Minister Edwina Hart asking her to consider Powys as a site for the second tranche of Enterprise Zones, to be announced before Christmas.

In a letter to Mrs Hart, the AM said he was pleased the Government was examining areas beyond the main industrialised towns and cities, and hoped that rural mid Wales would feature in her second phase announcement.

Mr George said: "The minister has stated she has been discussing additional Enterprise Zones with other local authorities and I have asked her what discussions she has had with Powys County Council and other key stakeholders in the region."

"For many years, Powys has delivered high end manufacturing employment in a variety of sectors - textiles, automotive, sustainable development and low carbon technologies."

"It has also made a significant contribution to Welsh tourism and food and farming sectors, which have been identified by the Government as priority sectors for development."

"I think a zone in the Severn Valley would add real value to the Welsh economic recovery, and I hope the Minister gives my suggestion serious consideration."

Fireworks show draws big crowds

WELSHPOOL'S fireworks display attracted big crowds on Saturday night and passed without incident, according to organisers.

The town council held the free extravaganza at Maesdyre on Saturday night and was delighted with the response from the town.

"The fireworks display went well with loads of people there," said town clerk Robert Robinson. "There has been a lot of positive feedback with good comments."

Chance to quiz football legend and see FA Cup

by Graham Breeze

ON THE LAST day of the exhibition *Playing for Wales - the history of the FAW the Powysland Museum at Welshpool is staging a question and answer evening with football legend Graham Williams and memorabilia collector Ceri Stennett.*

Graham Williams was a hero at West Bromwich Albion and captained the side in the FA Cup Final. He was a regular in the Welsh team and later moved into coaching and was assistant manager for Wales in the late 1990's. Today he is scouting for Tottenham Hotspur.

Ceri Stennett was the press officer at the Welsh FA from 1998-2011, covering 100 matches. He is also an avid collector and the exhibition is the result of a successful partnership between Ceri and Powysland Museum.

Recently he has also researched, compiled and written the book *As Good As It Gets - A Centenary History of the Welsh Schools Football Association 1911-2011.*

The book took three years to complete and it includes more than 2,500 players, who have represented Wales from down the years from Fred Keenor in 1907 to Aaron Ramsey in 2006. The book is on sale at the museum and Ceri Stennett will be happy to sign copies.

There will be an opportunity to have photos taken with The FA Cup and Graham Williams, who lifted the trophy himself, when West Bromwich Albion won the 1968 competition.

There will be a charge of £1 per photograph, the proceeds of which will go to the Montgomeryshire Museums Education and Access Service.

The evening will also offer guests an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for an original Wales shirt, which has been signed by all the players prior to the Euro 2012 qualifying games against Montenegro and England in September.

The winner will be drawn on the night. Booking on 01938 554656 is essential as the museum has only limited spaces. Last date for booking is Monday, November 28.

Pamper date fundraiser

WELSHPOOL AIR Training Corps has teamed up with the Body Shop at Home for a fundraising pampering evening.

With more than 30 cadets in their ranks, the ATC is raising funds for a mini-bus and on Wednesday November 16 from 7pm they will host a pamper evening.

It will take place at the ATC's headquarters at The Armoury with a range of products that would make great Christmas gifts on sale, here will also be a raffle, party games, make-up demo and tea and coffee. A percentage of all sales will be donated to Squadron.

Halls' auction success

A WATERCOLOUR by famous British equestrian artist Lionel Edwards sold for £3,800 at Halls' new sporting auction in Shrewsbury.

The painting of the United Hunt on the Stiperstones, Shropshire, which was consigned by a Welshpool area vendor, showed Roger Plowden, master of the fox hounds from 1922 to 27, in hunting pinks with fellow members of the hunt.

Purchased by a Shropshire art collector, the watercolour was commissioned from Edwards (1878-1966) by Sir John Jackson, of Cwm Hall, South Shropshire.

Air crews beginning exercise over town

A THREE-MONTH air exercise was underway this week as crack pilots started preparing for war in Afghanistan over the Welshpool area.

The exercise, code-named Pashtun Tempest, involves helicopters and jets and is expected to continue until February 5, 2012.

"The name gives a clue as to the nature of the training involved," said Squadron Leader Albie Fox the RAF's community relations officer for Wales. "There will be occasions when participating aircraft will be required to operate at low level and this may include low level orbits and landing."

"As always, our pilots' first priority will be to keep low level flying to the minimum necessary to achieve standards required to operate successfully in the dangerous theatre of Afghanistan."

"Their second priority is to achieve this with minimum disturbance to those on the ground."

Activity times are planned for 11am to 1pm and 2 to 4pm daily and no weekend flying is expected.

Donors urged to give blood

THE NATIONAL Blood Service will be visiting Welshpool on Tuesday, November 22 and an appeal has gone out for new donors.

If you are between 17 and 60 and in good health please visit www.blood.co.uk or call 0300 123 23 23 to make an appointment.

The donor sessions will be between 2pm and 4pm and 5.30pm and 7.30pm and take place at Welshpool Town Hall.



Curator Eva Bredsdorff, from Powysland Museum, with some of the shirts from the Welsh FA exhibition. Picture: Peter Flemmich

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Olympic treat for town as torch travels country

by Graham Breeze

WELSHPOOL WILL bid the Olympic Torch farewell from Wales on what will be an historic occasion for the town on May 30.

The honour was confirmed when London 2012 unveiled its finalised route for the Olympic Torch which will travel through 1,018 locations throughout Great Britain.

And Welshpool will play one of the most high profile roles, with the torch being waved off from Wales having spent five days travelling the length and breadth of the country.

London 2012 Organising Committee chairman Lord Sebastian Coe said the relay would take the 2012 Games to almost every corner of the UK.

"Now everyone is invited to plan their welcome and find out where they can go to be part of this historic occasion."

"We originally started out by saying 95 per cent of the population would be within an hour's journey of the route - we now have that as within 10 miles."

"We've got to get the torch to as many communities as possible."

Welshpool will feature on Day 12 of the marathon journey. The torch will begin in Chester before travelling through Wrexham, Oswestry, Pant, Llanymynech and onto Welshpool.

It will then leave the town on its journey east to travel through Shrewsbury on its way to Stoke for the evening stop-over.

During the 10-week relay, the torch will be carried by 8,000 torchbearers and will travel about 8,000 miles.

It will be lit, as per tradition, in Greece on May 12 and arrive in the UK six days later.

Mayor aids fund



It's the Royal British Legion's 90th anniversary and Welshpool mayor Estelle Bleivas was out on the streets of Welshpool to raise funds for the Welshpool RBL.

Picture: Peter Flemmich

Delight as broadband roll-out is speeded up

NEWS THAT improved broadband service will be available for all areas of Wales a year ahead of schedule have been welcomed.

Powys County Council administration group welcomed the announcement by Welsh Government Minister Edwina Hart.

Originally Welsh Government had planned to provide new generation broadband connection to all business in Wales by 2016 and to households by 2020, but have now agreed the roll-out will be achieved for all by the end of 2015.

The administration group had been very concerned as farms were not originally classed as business, and in Powys there are many small businesses run from people's homes.

Councillor Dawn Bailey said: "We are delighted the Welsh Government have listened to representations and that new generation broadband will now be rolled out to all sectors simultaneously."

Councillor Wynne Jones said: "There still remains concern areas such as Cardiff will be first to receive the new enhanced service and we contend the roll-out should start in areas that currently suffer from the poorest service and are already disadvantaged."

Funds for tourism firms are available

WELSHPOOL tourism businesses planning to expand or launch a new venture are being encouraged to apply for support from a Welsh Government investment scheme, administered through Visit Wales.

The Tourism Investment Support Scheme (TISS) is designed to help businesses to improve product quality and to support new business ventures and expansion plans.

Changes to the scheme, which was launched last year, have increased the maximum level of support available through TISS from £300,000 to £500,000. The minimum investment level remains at £5,000.

Until recently, the support offered would not normally exceed 25 per cent of a project's total cost.

Visit Wales is now, however, prepared to consider higher level interventions on a case by case basis for businesses.

The prime objective of the scheme is to provide information about TISS visit www.gov.uk/topics/tourism/investmentsupport, or e-mail tiss@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Festive plea for knitters

KNITTERS AND wool are urgently needed by Age Concern Powys for their new project of knitting little booties to sell as Christmas decorations.

Anyone with any spare knitting wool to donate, especially in bright colours, should call 01686 623707.



The Severn Hospice charity shop in Welshpool, has just started selling Christmas cards. Taking a look at some of the festive scenes, was volunteer Jenny Turner.

Picture: Peter Flemmich

Castle offering tours of rooms

POWIS CASTLE is unlocking some of its winter secrets for the public to view in the run-up to Christmas.

The State Rooms, normally locked away from the public during the winter months, will be opened for an hour on Fridays only for a tour from 11am, starting tomorrow.

Visitors will see the meticulously detailed work carried out by the housekeeping team, cleaning and conserving the historic contents and interiors of the castle, and will be shown the particular, painstaking techniques of preventive conservation.

There's a chance to discover how the team cares for the diverse collections, ranging from fine clocks to taxidermy. Working from scaffolds, dust is removed from every nook and cranny with specialist equipment and cleaning materials.

The housekeeping team will conduct the tours, sharing their skills and answering any questions on how the high standards of presentation at Powis Castle are achieved and maintained throughout the busy season. The castle and garden will be open for the winter on Fridays, Saturday and Sundays until January 1 from 11am to 4pm (closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day).

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VAUXHALL

Fee freeze as traders seek more members

OSWESTRY CHAMBER of Commerce will freeze membership costs at £20 per year until the body has a need for further investment – and is on the lookout for more members.

Management group member Louise Hudson told the November meeting that the chamber had a healthy bank account of over £3,000 and said there was no need to increase annual charges.

"It would not be appropriate to look at an increase unless we were looking to invest in projects for the good of the people of Oswestry and we have no need for extra income at this time," she said.

The chamber will hold a management meeting in January to review the first nine months of the revamped organisation and an annual meeting in April, when the membership cost is expected to be rubber stamped.

Vice chairman Wendy Unwin said there was a need to attract membership from the national companies and is to collate contact information of all the town's major businesses.

Draw winner is revealed

THE WINNER of the £1,000 first prize in the Hope House monthly draw comes from Llandudno Junction.

The winner of the £100 prize was ticket 061871 from Oswestry. The £50 tickets were 022666 from Tywyn and 081798 from Nantwich, while the £25 cash prizes went to 004605 from Corwen and 100066 from Newtown.

Tragic Kirstie's family plans to honour her memory with pony

by Graham Breeze

THE UNCLE of murdered Shropshire schoolgirl Kirstie Foster has launched a campaign to help buy a pony for a Riding for the Disabled group in her memory.

Andrew Foster said he had launched the fundraising drive because his 15-year-old niece was a keen and talented horse rider.

Kirstie, along with her mother Jill, was murdered by her father Christopher Foster at their home at Osbaston House at Maesbrook near Oswestry in 2008.

The debt-ridden businessman also shot the family pets before setting the family's luxury mansion on fire and killing himself.

Mr Foster said he wanted to keep her memory alive and helping to buy a pony for Riding for the Disabled group was the best way he could do that.

He said: "She absolutely loved horses and riding and that is one thing we will always remember about her."

"I thought helping to buy a pony was a way we could carry her memory on."

"We have placed the appeal on Kirstie's Facebook memorial site and hopefully everyone who knew her will help the appeal."

"The memorial site has more than 2,000 members so hopefully we can get a good contribution towards buying the new pony."

"It is now three years since the tragic loss of Kirstie. In memory of Kirstie and her passion for horses we continue to support the Riding For The Disabled and

have a cup presented in memory of Kirstie at the RDA championships at Hartpury College every year.

"We are also involved in the Wolverhampton group for the Riding For The Disabled, who have recently gained local charity sponsorship from Sainsbury's Periton in Wolverhampton."

Donations can be made by texting KRP93 £1 to 70070 or visiting the website at www.justgiving.com/Kirstie-Foster

Mr Foster added: "What happened in 2008 and to Kirstie is never far from our thoughts."

"It has been incredibly difficult for all of us and as I have power of attorney over my brother's estate it is still an ongoing process."

"Hopefully the pony will at least bring something positive from all of this."

Daniel nets dream to be mascot at final



OVER 150 children participate in Oswestry Team Tennis during the term time at Cae Glas Park. Barclays runs a scheme called Spaces for Sports, which enabled the tennis club to run a raffle, with the top prize being a chance for one child to be a mascot at the ATP Masters final at the O2 arena on November 25. Daniel Edwards, eight, (front), was the eventual winner. He has been playing tennis since the age of four.

Picture: Peter Flemmich

Signatures wanted to get behind walkers bid

OSWESTRY PEOPLE and organisations have unanimously welcomed the move to seek the highly sought after 'Walkers are Welcome' status for the town and surrounding area.

Among the benefits are improved local walking facilities and a boost to the local economy by attracting more visitors.

A steering group set up at a recent public meeting has drawn up a plan of action to satisfy the required criteria. This includes:

- Collecting 500 signatures of support
- Seeking the endorsement of town and parish councils
- Exploring the most effective forms of marketing
- Setting up a timetable of actions culminating in a launch in May and a walking festival in September

Chairman Anne Hendrie is urging as many people as possible to sign up in support of Oswestry and area Walkers are Welcome to achieve the target of 500 signatures.

"In a very short space of time we have already achieved 150 signatures but we need more. Signature sheets are available in the Booka Bookshop, Honeysuckle, Mile End, the Heritage Centre and the Café Radio. Sheets can be taken away, filled in and returned," she said.

People can also e-mail oswestrywrw@uwclub.net.

Castle grounds to open for weekends

THE AWARD-winning gardens and historic parkland at Chirk Castle near Oswestry will be open at weekends during November.

The castle's gift shop and farm shop will also be open from 10am to 4pm.

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Charity store appeals for more festive stock

Ticket sales double



Hope House fundraiser, Sarah Elms, with some tickets for the Christmas Raffle. Picture: Peter Flemmich

TICKET SALES from a charity raffle offering a unique 18-carat white gold snowflake pendant as top prize have doubled from £6,000 to £12,000 in just one month.

The hand-made piece of jewellery has been crafted by Ken Kapal, of KMK Fine Jewellery, to help raise much-needed cash for Hope House Children's Hospice.

It is currently being raffled off by the Morda-based charity and tickets cost £1. The raffle has been going since September and last month the charity announced that £6,249 worth of tickets had been sold.

Today they have revealed this number had doubled to about £12,000.

The raffle tickets can be bought from one of the 13 Hope House Children's Hospice shops or by calling (01691) 671671 or (01492) 596 581.

by Graham Breeze

BOSSSES AT the Salvation Army's charity store in Oswestry have lodged an appeal for more stock in the run-up to Christmas.

They say they have had a large turnover of stock already this year and need more items to fill their shelves to offer people in the town a festive bargain.

Store manager Jane Williams said: "We are looking for everything except furniture.

"Anyone with books, clothing, bric a brac or toys is being asked to come along to our store in Church Street to donate goods.

"We have had a large turnover of items and we need more to stock up because we are running a bit low."

The Church Street store is set for a huge festive transformation in the run-up to Christmas.

After it closes on November 16 the store will be transformed into a winter wonderland ahead of its Christmas launch, opening at 9am on November 17.

Staff and volunteers at the shops have been saving the best Christmas gift wear, decorations and party from donations received throughout the year, and all of the stock will be on sale for the first time that morning.

"We're really looking forward to launching our Christmas stock," said Ann Penny, area manager for Salvation Army Trading Company.

Customers will also be offered one of the store's innovative new "reward" loyalty cards.

The free double-sided card rewards customers each time they spend £5 in the shop or donate their unwanted items using one of the shop's reusable "re-bags".

Each time a customer spends £5 in-store, one side of their reward card will be stamped, with 10 stamps entitling customers to a £5 credit to spend in-store.

Each time a re-bag is brought into the store full of donations, a stamp to the value of £2 will be given.

Views are sought on council site

OSWESTRY TOWN Council has asked the town's Chamber Of Commerce to express their views on the content of the council website.

Chamber chairman Martin Anderson told members on Wednesday night that the council was keen to hear members' thoughts and encouraged feedback through the chamber which would be passed on to the council.

Pubwatch representative Frank Francis said the council website needed more information for the public. "There needs to be more contact information and more information about local businesses," he said.

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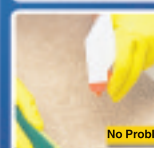
Wine?



Mud?



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Boozers are defying ban on drinking in set areas

PEOPLE IN St Martins are ignoring alcohol control areas, it has been claimed.

St Martins Parish Council has been approached by members of the public concerned that the zones, called Designated Public Places Orders, are being ignored.

There are also claims that bottles and cans have been found discarded in different areas of the St Martins include the football field.

The DPPOs were installed in the village about a year ago but it is claimed people drink and litter there.

Shropshire Councillor Steve Davenport said: "It has been noted that there are still people drinking there. It is a concern for the local people that live there."

Councillor Neil Graham said: "We get complaints about that. We do get drinkers, especially in the dugout in the football pitch."

"It is supposed to be an alcohol free area. We have youngsters coming with packs under their arms."

Views sought on group logo

MEMBERS OF Oswestry Chamber of Commerce will be asked to vote for their favourite logo as the recently reformed group looks to rebrand.

Chamber members were told on Wednesday night that a series of suggested new logos would be displayed on the group's website and that they should vote for their first choice.

John Waine said: "We have a good selection to choose from and now we need members to have their say on their favourite. It's important that we hear your opinions as this will be our branding moving forward."

Hotel honoured to welcome The Doctor during film shoot

Planners are alerted to another Dale Farm

COUNCIL CHIEFS have been warned they could have 'another Dale Farm fiasco' on their hands near Oswestry if they do not resolve a planning row quickly.

Dozens of objections have been lodged with Shropshire Council over plans for a travellers' camp opposite Henlle Park Golf Club in Gobowen.

Some work has already been carried out on the site, a former rubbish tip, without planning permission and council chiefs slapped a stop order on the site last year.

The applicants reduced the size of their application in September to ease public concerns about their plans. The travellers now only want to build four pitches.

One objector, calling himself Mr Very Angry, urged the council to resolve the controversy quickly.

He added: "Do we have to wait for the situation to slide into another Dale Farm fiasco at yet more expense to the public purse."

£162 raised by pink day

STAFF ARE celebrating after members of the community helped them to raise more than £100 for charity.

Employees at Gobowen Pharmacy are thanking the community for taking part in their charity event for Wear it Pink day.

A cake sale and raffle helped to raise £162 for Breast Cancer Campaign.

Rosemary Guarino, dispenser, said: "We would like to thank the village."

by Iain St John

AN OSWESTRY hotelier says it was a 'great honour' to have actor David Tennant and fellow cast members stay at his hotel while they filmed scenes for a new movie nearby.

The Doctor Who star, along with actors Marc Wootton and Jason Watkins, were staying at the Sweeney Hall Hotel near Oswestry last week.

The actor's stay at the hotel caused quite a stir with guests and staff alike and he even took time to pose for a quick photograph with some staff members during his visit.

Sweeney Hall Hotel owner Sean Evans said it had been a thrill for everyone at the hotel to see the actors. He said: "We had a production company call and they came to have a look at the hotel and then booked four rooms. David Tennant, Marc Wootton and Jason Watkins have been staying here, along with Stevie Smith who is involved in hair and make-up for the film."

Glance

"It has been a great honour to have them here and a lot of our guests have been taking a second glance."

"They have been fine and they have kept a low profile. They have been eating in the bar where it is quieter rather than in the restaurant where there are more people. Some of our guests have been taking photos."

The cast were in the area to film scenes for *Nativity 2*. Last week the cast and camera crews were filming in various places around the Shropshire/Welsh border including in the village of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

They have also filmed at Llanrhaeadr Waterfall, Lake Vyrnwy and Bala as part of a plot which sees pupils embarking on a school trip.

Sean's wife Kara Kynaston-Evans said the hotel had played host to many famous figures.

She said: "It is hard to remember everyone but, off the top of my head, we have had Apollo 13 actor Bill Paxton and actor Rob Lowe."

"We have had Roger Moore's daughter Deborah stay and it was wonderful to hear his lovely voice when he called to speak to his daughter."

"Mission Impossible's" Jurgelborga Dapkunaite has been here and we had Big Brother's Chantelle and Preston while they were together."

"Other people have included George Melly, Kenneth Cranham and Timothy West while Mel C was here about three years ago as a guest at a wedding."

"And Ken Livingstone has also been here."



Baking expert Dan Lepard at The Walls Restaurant in Oswestry. Pictures: Peter Flemmich

Expert Dan conjures up some tasty baking tips

THE COUNTRY'S foremost baking guru Dan Lepard was in Oswestry on Saturday for a baking demonstration event organised by Booka Bookshop in Oswestry.

Dan wowed audiences with bread and cake making and decorating masterclasses at The Walls Restaurant. The event was timed to coincide with the publication of his latest book *Short and Sweet*.



Linda Clark, from Honeysuckle Whole foods, in Oswestry.



Organiser Carrie Morris, from Booka, with some of Dan Lepard's books.

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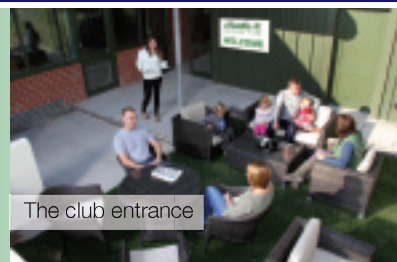
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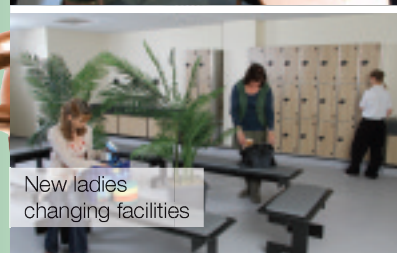
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MOMENTUM WINES is Oswestry's one stop shop for all of your quality drinks requirements.

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Since then the company has grown significantly, and moved to its purpose built base in Maes y Clawdd, Maesbury Road in March this year.

This warehouse is the centre for deliveries to numerous hotel and restaurant accounts in Shropshire, Cheshire and Mid-Wales, as well as housing a retail wine store, open to members of the public.

"We keep a range of around 400 wines in stock at any one time, covering all the key production areas."

Delight

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"We like to think that whatever price you pay for your bottle, then the wine will delight you and offer excellent value for money."

"Prices start from just under the £5 mark, and our focus is on wines between £5 and £15 per bottle, although you will find Dom Perignon and Penfolds Grange should you desire."

"As well as our extensive wine range we offer a broad selection of spirits, imported



Momentum Wines in Oswestry.

Pictures: Peter Flemmich

lagers and local ales, from the likes of Stonehouse Brewery and Three Tuns.

"Over the coming few weeks we will be busy supplying local companies with wine packs for both staff and customers - we can even brand the packs especially for you with your firm's logo."

"If wine tasting is your thing, we are delighted to be holding our Christmas Tasting at The Wynnastay Hotel again this year."

"Held on Thursday, December 1, we will have around 60 wines open to taste, with advice offered from a number of wine shipers."

"Tickets, priced £10, are available by calling us on 01691 654 499."

"We look forward to seeing you in store soon."



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FEATURES

01691 668094

Big plans in place for pub's festive trade

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

JENNY Strachan and Steve Lewis have big plans for their first Christmas in business at The Horseshoe Inn at Arddleen.

The couple, who have been running the Admiral Taverns-owned inn for eight months, are looking forward to attracting people for the festive season. The Horseshoe has recently been refurbished and offers traditional home cooked food, real ale and open fires and has some great offers lined up for Christmas and New Year.

Customers can enjoy three-course Christmas menus for £15 in the lead up to the big day and bookings are now being taken for Christmas Day lunches at £39.99 for a four course meal.

Children eat for £19.99 and under-fives are free with dining starting at noon.

The Horseshoe is available for family, business and club parties and also



The Horseshoes Inn at Arddleen.

Pictures: Peter Flemmich

offers daily menus ranging from £5 to £12. Jenny gave up a lecturing role at Walford and North Shropshire College to move into the licensing trade but is no stranger to the business as her parents kept hotels in Oswestry, Caersws and Holywell.

It's a new venture for Steve, who is a scaffolder by trade.

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FEATURES

01691 668094



Judith Wilde with some of the goods on offer at Changes.

Gifts and accessories for home and garden

A BUSINESS selling a mixture of home and garden accessories has expanded from an online presence to open doors at Nescliffe.

Changes was launched as an internet based business by Judith Wilde and Claire Harrison, but is expanding and offering customers the chance to see their products at a Christmas Open Weekend on December 3 and 4.

Alongside the old A5 at The Garage on Holyhead Road, Nescliffe Changes offer a refreshing mix of accessories from country home to shabby chic at affordable prices.

Stock changes regularly so there is always something new for any occasion like birthdays, a treat for yourself or the festive Christmas period.

Changes now stock a large range of garden sheds, summerhouses, playhouses and garages including made to measure products.

Visitors can enjoy hassle-free shopping at Changes as

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

they browse excellent quality products and gifts for the home and garden.

The open days take place between 10am and 6pm and there will be a glass of mulled wine and mince pies on offer for browsers.

Changes is now open for business from 9am-5pm from Monday to Friday.

"It seemed the natural thing to do as we have the stock available for the online business," said Mrs Wilde. "People can now come along and see and touch the products and we will have everything they need to prepare for Christmas, including real Christmas trees.

Changes can still be found on the internet at www.changeshomeandgarden.co.uk or can be contacted on 07971 302868 or 07980 768100.

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Five-bedroom former show home on edge of a popular village

This recently constructed five-bedroom detached house was once the site show home on the Milars Field development on the edge of Morda village.

Number 19 includes entrance hall, cloakroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility, master bedroom with dressing area and ensuite, guest bedroom with ensuite, three further bedrooms and main bathroom. There is a double width driveway, double garage and gardens to the front and rear.

The property is being offered at £265,000 with Richmond Harvey. For more details call 01691 654222 or visit www.richmondharvey.com



Extended house has far-reaching views towards mountains

Tyn Y Cefn, Llanerfyl, Welshpool, is an extended detached four-bedroom house with stunning views over the surrounding countryside as far as Snowdon and the Berwyn Mountains.

At £235,000, the house has some character features including the former bread oven along with modern features such as a Jacuzzi bath.

Planning permission has been granted for an extension to include a dining room and entrance hall.

Gardens amount to about 1/5 acre and there are a number of useful sheds and a workshop. For further information contact McCartneys on 01938 531000 or visit www.mccartneys.co.uk

Versatile residence includes stables and 13 acres of land

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On the market for £895,000,

Pant Farm occupies an elevated position with far-

reaching views over the valley towards Pandry Rock. There are two entrances into the property, both via electronic wrought iron gates. The upper entrance leads to a tarmac drive providing access to car port, barn, menage, hay stores, secure tack room, dog kennels and upper paddock.

The two oil storage tanks and LPG gas store are situated here. Access from the drive leads to the pleasure lawn of the farmhouse with mature yew trees and stone wall landscaping.

The farmhouse is a Welsh stone longhouse with slate flooring throughout the ground floor. The living room has triple windows, beams above, and a brick fireplace with woodburner over a slate hearth.

There are free-standing pine units in the kitchen with a range cooker, double Belfast sink, and window seat.

Stairs lead up to the first floor where there are four bedrooms, family bathroom and a shower room.

The granary has been completely refurbished with the living accommodation on the upper floor to appreciate the view. The open-plan living room and kitchen have luxury features. There is an additional reception room on this floor currently used as a snug/bedroom. The cottage has been recently extended and again this property has the advantage of the living accommodation being on the upper floor, accessed by an oak staircase and balustrade. The kitchen units are oak with a stainless steel range cooker, Belfast sink, display unit and space for a double American style fridge. The dining room links through to the living room.

For further information call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk



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12 VICTORIA ST CASTLEFIELDS £385,000

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40 THE KNOLLS GAINS PARK £122,950

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30 TANKERVILLE STREET CHERRY ORCHARD £198,000

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MAYFIELD 60 UPPER ROAD MEOLE VILLAGE £329,500

An imposing, detached, 5-bedroomed residence with well maintained and well proportioned accommodation, situated in this popular and highly desirable residential location.

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10 PENGWERN COURT LONGDEN ROAD £105,000

- Ground floor retirement apartment with large shared balcony
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- Attractive communal gardens and parking



10 LADYCROFT CLOSE RADBROOK GREEN £142,950

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30 MOUNT STREET MOUNTFIELDS £395,000

An elegant Victorian Town House, arranged over 3 floors, situated in a highly popular and convenient location, close to the nearby town centre and excellent local amenities.

The accommodation briefly comprises: hall, dining room, drawing room, kitchen, utility room, breakfast room to the ground floor. Master bedrooms with en suite, two further bedrooms and bathroom to the first floor. Two bedrooms and shower room to the second floor. Good sized well stocked gardens.



17 MEADOW CLOSE SUNDORNE £164,000

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249 MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD HEATH FARM £149,000

- Well appointed and maintained semi-detached house
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- Gas fired CH and DG, garage
- Enclosed rear garden, parking.



2 SUNDORNE CRESCENT SUNDORNE £140,000

- Mature semi-detached residence in corner position
- 3 beds, bathroom
- Lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory
- Good sized side garden and garage
- Gas fired CH, PVCu DG



7 MILL MEADOW LAUNDRY LANE £425,000

A extremely attractive, spacious and well maintained 4 bedroom detached family house, situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, close to excellent local amenities. Gas fired CH, DG, full insulation, entrance porch, entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, conservatory, study, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, master bedroom with dressing room and en suite bathroom, second bedroom with en suite shower room, 2 further bedrooms and family bathroom. Detached double garage, parking, professionally landscaped rear garden.



40 GRANGEFIELDS ROAD

A particularly attractive, mature, semi-detached 3-bedroomed family house situated in this highly desirable and much sought after residential location on the western fringe of Shrewsbury. The property is set in attractive gardens which are well stocked and situated within reach of nearby wide-ranging amenities including excellent schools, the nearby town centre and the Shrewsbury by-pass with M54 link to the West Midlands.

The accommodation benefits from gas-fired CH, cavity wall insulation and briefly comprises :- entrance porch, entrance hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, rear lobby allowing access to the garden with built in dry store and separate wc, 3 bedrooms and bathroom. Garage, ample parking space. Attractive neatly kept garden to the front and to the rear a particularly well stocked landscaped and good sized rear garden.

£225,000



21 UNDERDALE AVENUE OFF UNDERDALE ROAD £229,950

A beautifully appointed, stylish, semi-detached house, situated in a popular and favoured area within reach of excellent amenities and the nearby town centre. The accommodation has the benefit of gas fired central heating and extensive replacement double glazing and briefly comprises: reception hall, cloakroom, utility area, living room, dining room, smartly appointed kitchen, 3 bedrooms and bathroom. Driveway and parking. Delightful enclosed courtyard garden.

Students study detail of teenager's murder



Walford and North Shropshire College students have studied the Stephen Lawrence murder as part of Black History Month.

by Graham Breeze

THE MURDER of London teenager Stephen Lawrence and the subsequent inquiry into how police investigated the death is the focus of a new study by Oswestry students.

Students on the uniformed services course at Walford and North Shropshire College have put together a display about the murder.

The study, part of Black History Month, showcases Stephen Lawrence's mother's complaint against the police and the treatment of his friend, Duwayne Brooks, by the police.

The display, at the college's Walford campus, also looks at the ensuing MacPherson report which looked into the death and how it was treated by the police and also the work of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust.

The case is being studied in detail by the first year students as part of their equality and diversity unit.

Steve Hunter, public services lecturer at the college, said: "The tragic death of Stephen Lawrence had more impact on public services than almost any other event in recent history."

"Policies and procedures changed, not just in the police service, but in other areas too."

"It is important that the students understand the impact that Stephen's death had, and how public services changed as a result."

Stephen Lawrence was stabbed to death while waiting for a bus in April 1993.

In 1999, an inquiry headed by Sir William Macpherson examined the original Metropolitan police investigation and concluded that the force was "institutionally racist".

Two men are to stand trial later this month accused of being part of a gang that killed the teenager.

For more information about the public uniformed services courses at Walford and North Shropshire College visit www.wnsc.ac.uk

Author to visit shop

AUTHOR ANDY Briggs will be at the Booka Book Shop in Oswestry next Thursday and will also visit local schools promoting his new book 'Tarzan'.

The Tarzan character will be 100 years old in 2012 and, for he has been reborn in a new official series of books for a new generation of readers both young and old - written by author and screenwriter, Andy Briggs.

Donations from each Tarzan book sold go towards a charity saving endangered apes worldwide.

Talk on lost canal for group meeting

THE INLAND Waterways Association will be looking at a lost canal byway with a future at its meeting next Monday.

The meeting, at the Narrowboat Inn, Whittington, will hear a talk from branch historian Peter Brown about the Plas Kynaston Canal, which was once an important part of the Llangollen Canal.

The Plas Kynaston Canal Group now hope to breathe new life into the canal as a catalyst for the regeneration of the area.

Branch president Michael Limbrey said: "Today's Llangollen Canal brings visitors from all over, and is famous for the great aqueducts in the World Heritage Site."

"Peter Brown will tell us a fascinating story of entrepreneurs developing the industries of the area, of the canal and tramroads bringing traffic to the Llangollen Canal at Trevor."

Admission is free and all are welcome.



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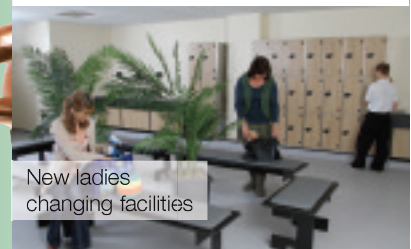
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Love of language leads to Lowri's perfect shop

LOWRI ROBERTS has always had a passion to keep the Welsh language alive and her Oswestry business has attracted the attention of national TV companies.

The 31-year-old, from Penybontfawr, grew up near Oswestry with Welsh being her first language.

She loves the language and playing around with words and this has led to her having three Welsh-related jobs – including having a Welsh Shop in Oswestry.

She believes the business, which she runs inside Powis Hall with her mother Linda Roberts, could be the only Welsh Shop in England.

They opened the doors to Siop Cwllwm in July 2010 to sell a number of items including clothing, gifts and trinkets inscribed in Welsh.

She also stocks popular language books and holds special events.

The business is doing well and has attracted the attention

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

with Chrissy Symmons



of Radio Cymru and S4C which featured her shop during a special programme about the local area.

The S4C children's character Sali Mali has also made an appearance there boosting business and the town's popularity.

She said: "Starting up the shop was my idea but I couldn't have done it without my mother."

"If she hadn't said I want to be part of this I wouldn't have done it."

"She is really important and she is very hands on with the business."

"When we were on S4C it was really difficult to watch myself."

"Being on TV was really good and the day after we had people from mid Wales come to

the market in Oswestry."

The business has also been featured on radio and newspapers.

As well as having the shop, she also works for the NHS translating.

When she was 25 years old she started up her own business translating (www.tanatranslation.co.uk) which she also does.

"I have three jobs," she said. "It doesn't take up all my time though. I have to make sure I have spare time."

"I enjoy my work and I feel passionate about it so it doesn't feel like work. It is never a chore."

Miss Roberts studied A levels at Llanfyllin Secondary School, including Welsh. She then went to University of Aberystwyth, to study a Welsh

degree before becoming a professional translator.

"Welsh is my first language and my brain works in Welsh," she said. "I think Welsh is important."

"I feel really passionate about that."

"Oswestry is the only place over and along the border that still has strong Welsh speakers."

"I feel passionate to do what I do and I am proud of our language."

"I have a passion to keep Welsh alive and that's why I carry on with translation. They all work together well."

And so what are her plans for the future?

To continue as she is promoting Welsh.

For her shop she has plans to introduce Welsh decorations at Christmas and set up a language group.

She said: "We are going to start up a 'talking shop' in January for people learning Welsh. We want to nurture and support them."

To find out more about the shop visit www.siocwllwm.co.uk



Lowri Roberts, from Siop Cwllwm.

Picture: Peter Flemmich

Decision on town lights is welcomed

POLICE HAVE welcomed a council decision not to switch off half the lights on Oswestry's car parks.

Turning off every second light at the Oswestry Town Council car parks had been one option discussed in a project to save energy.

But councillors rejected the idea, amid fears it could lead to more crime.

Police have backed the move, saying well lit car parks were essential for CCTV cameras to work effectively.

The council will instead look at a project which will use energy saving LED lights installed at the car parks.

The move will cost the council about £16,500 but councillors have heard there would be an estimated energy saving of 70 per cent.

Date for choir at village hall

PENYBONTFAWR Male Voice Choir and soloists will be singing at the village hall in Trefonen on Saturday.

The choir last sang in Trefonen two years ago.

All profits of the evening will go to the upkeep of the village hall.

Tickets are £6 and can be obtained from Val Smout on (01691) 657011.

Last time the choir performed in the village it was a sell-out.

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A loud sort of quiet in closed road

DOWN YOUR STREET

with Ben Bentley



ROAD CLOSED; life goes on. It's the story of Old Fort Road, Oswestry – previously a busy thoroughfare, now, due to major waterworks, a 'quiet' dead end until next summer.

I say quiet because it's the loud sort of quiet, if the clatter of the diggers and the hauling of various bits of metal work up the street is anything to go by.

But residents are pretty stoic about the disruption and inconvenience, the hole in the road and the various signs and plastic fencing that have sprung up and become part of the scenery in the street.

And anyway, most of them appear to be having work done on their houses – new central heating, kitchens, building work – anyway. Improvements all round.

Still, the work is the talk of the street, commentary on its progress seemingly the second sentiment after "hello" to tumble from the lips of a morning. "It's a lot quieter for traffic," says resident Colin Reynolds. "But we are having some work done ourselves on the house. We're a bit upside down but we are looking forward to it and it will all be worth it."

Old Fort Road must also be the dog-walking capital of Oswestry. Everyone is at it – well, those that have dogs and can walk at least, which seems like everyone. Colin points out that behind the street is the old hill fort and fields as far as the eye can see, and it's all prime dog walking territory.

"Have you got the poop bags, Diane?" he asks his



Dog walkers Colin Reynolds with Benji and wife Diane with Buster.

wife as the pair set off on a stroll with their Jack Russells Benji and Buster.

Over the road Sylvia Jones has a yellow duster in her hand. "Oh, I'm doing a bit of polishing," she says hiding the duster behind her back as though it's a bad thing. "I'm cleaning the house, like you do."

"Turns out she's pretty handy with a duster, both professionally and in her free time."

"I'm retired now but I was the cleaning manager at the school over the road (Woodside Primary), I would organise the cleaning. Oh it was wonderful."

"I do miss it, and I miss the kids, but I can still hear them in the playground which is nice, and my grandchildren go there now. I'm not one for sitting down and watching the telly, but I am a great reader. I was given the Ernie Wise biography, which is something to get my teeth into."

She likes it here too. Bring me sunshine, as Little



Touching the gatepost for luck – Amanda Crouch.



Ern might have once sung...

"I wouldn't move if I won the lottery," she adds, flicking her duster in the air.

What's it like with all the roadworks going on? Quiet?

"You have come on a quiet day anyway," says Sylvia. "It is going on until next summer, it's a job that needs to be done and you get used to it."

"It can be a bit noisy with the wagons and cranes going up and down and cages being dragged up the street at 7.30 in the morning, but we are coping!"

For the record, it's now about 9.30am. It should also go on record that resident Amanda Crouch is



Old Fort Road is closed for water works until next year.

returning home armed with shopping bags. Pretty organised, that's how Amanda might be described.

"I've started my Christmas shopping," she says. "You have to when you've got a six-year-old daughter." She says the last few words with such love and happiness that you can almost see sunshine coming out of her mouth. It's clear her daughter means the world to her.

"I had a kidney transplant when I was 30, otherwise I probably would not have been able to have my daughter," she continues.

How's the kidney? "Fine," she says, touching the gatepost for luck.

Dance craze sessions hit village

THE ZUMBA dance craze has arrived in a village near Oswestry with the first of a series of classes starting last week in Ruyton-XI-Towns at 7.30pm. The session was aimed mainly at beginners and those taking part were shown the basic steps.

A spokesman for the class said: "It is much more fun than work-outs, gym or running round the streets and kinder to the joints."

"The average session burns about 350 calories per hour."

The first few sessions will be 45 minutes long but will increase over a number of weeks to an hour.

Sessions cost £4 and take place in the village's parish hall.

Cheese and wine invite

MOMENTUM WINES will host Oswestry Chamber of Commerce members for a cheese and wine tasting.

Members have accepted an invitation from the company to hold a social gathering at the company's Maes y Clawdd headquarters on December 7 with tickets costing at £5.

Carrie Morris said numbers were restricted to 40 people.

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22nd November 2011 (free to delegates)

Whittingham Riddell, Charity specialists, are hosting their annual Half-Day Charity update seminar on 22nd November 2011 at the Education & Conference Centre at Shrewsbury Hospital. The programme will provide guidance on topical issues including:

- Current Issues - a sector update
- Taxes & VAT Update
- Legal Matters
- The New Pension Regime
- Trustee Reporting - using it to best effect

Speakers from WR's specialist Charity team will be joined by Nigel Harrison from Hatchers Solicitors. Registration commences at 8:45am and the seminar concludes with a free buffet lunch. If you would like to attend this session, please contact Kathy Griffiths to reserve your place on 01743 273273 or email kmg@whittinghamriddell.co.uk

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ARTS & GIGS

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Venues announce feast of entertainment to tempt fans of the arts

GIG GUIDE

By Chrissy Symmons

CORSETS AND cummerbunds, belly dancers and musician will be coming to Oswestry to celebrate steam punk.

People will be dressing up on Saturday for a gig taking place at The Ironworks, in Church Street.

The venue will be hosting Abney Park, who are set to perform from 9pm.

The night will take on the steam punk theme which has a culture that embraces a mixture of eras.

The band says their audience should expect clockwork guitars, belly dancers, flintlock bassists, middle eastern percussion, violent violin and Tesla-powered keyboards blaring in post-apocalyptic, swashbuckling, steam punk musical mayhem.

The musicians create their steam punk style by mixing industrial, goth and New Age punk. The genre is said to be a big culture in the states.

But, before that, in a pub near Welshpool, there will be some live and gritty R'n'B from Eddy Gartry at the Lowfield Inn, in Marton.

He will be playing on Friday from 8pm and the gig is free.

Vintage

The singer/ guitarist was born in north-east England and is a regular on the UK blues scene.

He is mad for vintage amps, comedy and old American music.

During the day on Friday people are invited to a parade in Welshpool as part of Festival of Remembrance.

The event starts at the Town Hall.

And on a more theatre-based theme, people are invited to watch a production of The Village Social.

The play starts at 7.30pm and is presented by the professional theatre company from The National Theatre Wales.

The play has been described by as 'The Vicar of Dibley meets the Wicker Man'. It tells the tale of community fundraising event that doesn't turn out the way one would expect.

For more information call (01691) 791626.

Sunday night sees the Brookside actor Dean Sullivan, who played Jimmy Corkhill, bringing his latest production to Oswestry, a Wilfred Owen musical.



Former soap actor Dean Sullivan, famed for his role in Brookside, will bring his new Wilfred Owen musical, Bullets and Daffodils, to The Ironworks, Oswestry.

He will be directing and narrating Bullets and Daffodils at The Ironworks on Remembrance Sunday from 8pm.

Tickets are available from The Ironworks on (01691) 679123.

If you would like to see your event in the gig guide please e-mail csymmons@shropshirestar with 'gig guide' in the subject line.

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Artists hope to make a material difference at gallery's textile display

by Graham Breeze

TEN TEXTILE artists from Oswestry and beyond will be exhibiting their work at Oswestry's Willow Gallery.

Ros Hornbuckle, 63, has been a textile artist for 40 years after teaching herself the skill.

Her handwork will feature in the exhibition 'Fabrication', which will be open in the Willow Gallery from November 12 until December 6.

Artists also include Liz Mellor, Helen Love, Alison Holt and Suzett Smart from Oswestry.

Other pieces have been created by artists from across the country and Wales.

Mrs Hornbuckle said: "I am excited about the exhibition.

"It will be really colourful and there will be unusual pieces including lights, hats, furniture and hand-painted cushions.

"It will be the first time for the exhibition and I would like to try and encourage people to do this in other galleries."

Mrs Hornbuckle used to be a psychologist but took up the craft and set up her own work room in her home.

She is a tapestry weaver and creates large wall hangings in her studio.

She uses local fleece which she dyes, spins and then weaves into evocative pictures inspired by the coast of Wales.

It can take her up to two months to do a wall hanging around four foot square.

She said: "Although tapestry weaving is a very old art form it is a very time consuming process, which is probably why there are very few tapestry weavers working now in this country."

All women cast for new stage show

A TRAGIC COMEDY is being performed in a village hall on the Shropshire/Wales Border.

Llanymynech Amateur Dramatic Society will be presenting *Steel Magnolias*, by Robert Harling, on November 24 and 26.

The show starts at 7.45pm and stars an all female cast.

Tickets are available from Llanymynech Shop, Llanymynech Village Hall on (01691) 859147.

Oswestry Tourist Information Centre. Or people can visit www.lads-online.co.uk



Ros Hornbuckle preparing for her exhibition at the Willow Gallery in Oswestry. Picture: Peter Flemmich

Band on stage at school

Oswestry band Silent Blackout will be performing a gig at The Marches School in the town on November 25.

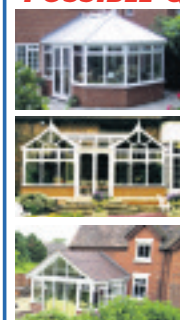
The performance runs from 7pm to 9pm and tickets will be on sale from the Marches School reception desk.

They cost £3.50 for a seated ticket and £2.50 for a standing ticket and they will also be available on the door.

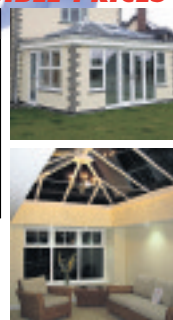
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Display stands will show current local research activity, specifically from Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust, South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, as well as representation from the Medicines for Children and Primary Care Research Networks.

Health Research represents a commitment to all our futures and we hope you will take this opportunity to engage with your Research Community.

West Midlands (North) CLRN

For further information contact:
Mary-Anne Darby, Research Manager,
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NEWS

Good ideas are wanted for village phone box

by Graham Breeze

WHAT CAN YOU do with an old, empty red phone box? This is the question being posed to villagers in Selattyn after councillors decided to adopt theirs for just £1.

The old BT phone box, opposite the Cross Keys pub in the village, may have disappeared for ever if the parish council hadn't agreed to take it on.

They are now issuing a call for suggestions on how best to use it. A number of ideas have already been made including a book swap station or a village notice board.

Clerk to the council, Penny O'Hagan, said: "The parish council has agreed to adopt the phone box in Selattyn.

"We are now looking at it for community use. There are lots of ideas on how we can use it and we are hoping we can make it into a nice project. It is good news for the village."

Parish Councillor Mark Turner said he was glad the box could be staying in the village.

He said: "It is a feature in the village so it is good to see we are able to keep it. It has been in the village for a long time. We are looking into uses for it and we have had some suggestions already."

He said it would have been nice to have kept the phone inside the box but the parish council were informed it had not been used enough.

He said: "Three out of four mobile company's signals can be received in the village but it is still difficult getting a signal."

"We had argued with BT but I understand it was not used very much."

Mrs O'Hagan is currently carrying out the paperwork to adopt the box.

A spokesman for BT said with the increase in mobile phones the use of phone boxes have dropped.

He said: "We are running an adopt a kiosk scheme."

"In rural areas there are kiosks no longer used by local communities but they have got used to them being there so we are giving them the option to adopt them for a £1. It is something that has proved popular."



Resident, Geoff Worrall, with Angus, and Rev Mark Turner at the phone box.
Picture: Peter Flemmich

Donation will help library

PEOPLE WITH visual impairments can quickly and easily find out more about the vast array of books stocked at Oswestry Library thanks to a new device.

The device, called a penfriend, has been donated to the library by a regular library-goer.

Julie Johnson, from Shropshire Council's libraries team, said: "The penfriend is a device for recording the summary information on the back of a talking book. The penfriend equipment is provided through the Royal National Institute for the Blind."

Centre to host quiz date

WHITTINGTON Community Centre will be hosting a fundraising fun quiz.

The event will take place on November 25 from 7.30pm. People are encouraged to take part in teams of four which costs £12 to include food and there will also be a licensed bar available.

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BUSINESS

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Top honour for solicitors



Peter Flint Paula Nash Neil Lorimer of Lanyon Bowdler.

THREE SOLICITORS, practising with leading Oswestry law firm Lanyon Bowdler, have been recognised as 'Leaders in their Field' by legal directory Chambers UK.

Joining previously acknowledged partners Peter Flint and Paula Nash is partner and head of the personal injury team, Neil Lorimer.

Neil has specialised in representing claimants in respect of personal injury and clinical negligence claims for many years. He has acted for a large number of claimants who have suffered serious multiple injuries including acquired brain injury, spinal injury and amputees, subjects in which he has a special interest. He enters the Chambers UK Directory at Band 2, just one step away from the highest recommendation.

The Directory recognises him for his 'experience, approach and sensitivity.'

Senior partner Peter Flint specialises in all aspects of family law, he is a practising Family Mediator and a trained Collaborative Lawyer. Chambers Directory quotes "Peter Flint draws praise for his professional and empathetic approach, and is applauded by one source as 'the best divorce lawyer in Shropshire'."

Paula Nash is experienced in dealing with a broad range of medical negligence claims in areas such as Anaesthesia, Orthopaedics, Obstetrics & Gynaecology (including cerebral palsy birth injury claims), Paediatrics, Urology, General Surgery, Ophthalmology and Cardiac Surgery.

All lawyers who appear in the directory are ranked because of the weight of positive feedback received during research carried out by Chambers into the strengths and reputations of law firms and individuals.

BUSINESSES IN the Oswestry area have the chance of free specialist training in renewable energy and environmental technologies.

Shropshire Council is reminding local businesses to sign up to the project which they are managing in conjunction with Telford and Wrekin, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Coventry, Herefordshire and Worcestershire councils as part of the wider 'Skills for Climate Change' programme supported by the European Social Fund.

The training, which includes courses on solar photovoltaics, solar thermal domestic hot water, heat pumps, biomass and quality management system preparation training, is open to all small to medium-sized businesses, sole traders and start-up businesses.

Councillor Mike Owen, cabinet member for business support, said: "I'd like to encourage interested local businesses to sign up for these fantastic free courses."

"They present a major opportunity for businesses to extend their skills base, and offer the potential of new business within the environmental technology sector."

The training will be delivered on a first-come first-served basis.

Contact the selected training provider directly at the Energy Training Hub on 0800 028 7420 or at info@energytraininghub.co.uk

Nick Jones,

Partner of St. James's Place Wealth Management, cordially invites Shrewsbury Chronicle readers to attend the following event:

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Turning clock back to 1981

For some, it's history, things that happened before they were born.

For others, there are hazy childhood memories. And for others, it is part of their life, stored there in the memory banks, with just a little nudge needed to bring it all back vividly to the surface.

This week we're talking 1981 – because we're going to turn the clock back exactly 30 years to this week that year to see what was going on in Oswestry and Welshpool areas at that time.

To be honest, there wasn't anything earth-shattering. But if you were about then, see how much you remember. Here we go...

Sponsored marathon walker Graham Nash made his second unusual entrance into Oswestry in his 56 years. He first visited the town as an evacuee and spent a short time with relatives who had a shop in Willow Street.

His second entry to the town came when he strolled in after completing a 50 mile trek from his home near Ellesmere Port. He was met in Oswestry by town mayor Councillor John Cassin.

Forty-two children from Trefonen School had their half term holiday extended because contractors had not completed fitting a new heating system.

Meanwhile, Oswestry Chamber of Commerce and Industry had a decision to make after receiving a letter from the town council asking whether a Saturday market attracted visitors to the

by Toby Neal

town – or hit trade. The chamber decided it was an asset which it wanted to continue.

The market had such appeal that a Women's Institute at Llanbedr on the Welsh coast arranged to visit it twice a year.

BBC Radio Wales's Roadshow rolled into Oswestry for a day of interviews with local personalities, for a programme in the *Roundabout* series.

Among those interviewed was Oswestry Town manager Freddie Morris. The BBC team also visited Oswestry Golf Club and the canal marina at Welsh Frankton.

While we're talking about Oswestry Town, we should mention that in a midweek game they beat Ruabon 2-0 to go into the next round of the Welsh Cup. Attendance at the Oswestry ground was 527.

A 1930s bread van once owned by Morris's in Shrewsbury and later bought by Oswestry doctor John Symondson for his children to play in had been restored to its former glory.

Dr Symondson, who had paid £5 for the van and another believed to be the same age, presented the van to the Acton Scott Museum.

Morris's then paid for one to be restored to its 1930s appearance.

Six bronze urns, thought to have been cooking pots from Cromwell's time, were unearthed in the grounds of the Ashfield Hotel at Llwynymaen, near Trefonen, during extension work.



A triumphal entry into Oswestry for sponsored walker Graham Nash.

A suggestion that the Welshpool smithfield market should be moved outside the town was opposed at a meeting of county, district, and town councillors at Welshpool.

The Mayor, Councillor Tegwyn Evans, said the move had been suggested by members of the NFU to solve problems in the market. Councillor John Evans said: "The auctioneers say the overheads of the market are too high."

Meanwhile, some supporters of the Welshpool bypass scheme were changing their minds and doubting whether



Oswestry Town boss Freddie Morris is interviewed by the BBC.

it was still needed. A meeting in the town heard that the proposed road had been shelved indefinitely.

Also on traffic matters, the Raven Square traffic roundabout at Welshpool was said to have 17 traffic and other signs. Councillor Mrs Yvonne Davies said: "Seventeen signs at a roundabout is ludicrous. We should be tidying this up."

Oh, one last thing. It was Oswestry Farmers' annual ball, held at the Pedigree. Among those there were Barbara Rodenhurst, Maria Smith, Pat Smith, and Doug Rodenhurst.



Bill Lewis, owner of the Ashfield Hotel at Llwynymaen, with six bronze urns dug up during the excavation of foundations for a hotel extension.

Library's gadget is a boon to the blind

PEOPLE WITH visual impairments can quickly and easily find out more about the vast array of books stocked at Oswestry Library thanks to a new device.

The gadget, called a penfriend, has been donated by a regular library-goer. Julie Johnson from Shropshire Council's libraries team said: "The penfriend is a device for recording the summary information on the back of a talking book."

"Someone with a visual impairment can then listen to the information to decide whether or not they want the book. The aim is to increase their independence when using the library."

"Two members of the Oswestry Talking Newspaper have done the recording for Oswestry Library and the service is being trialled by the Sight Loss group."

"The penfriend equipment is provided through the Royal National Institute for the Blind."

"This service is in addition to other facilities we have in the library for people with a sensory disability."

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MARKETS

Welshpool
livestock market

OTMS (81)

An entry of 81. Over Thirty Month Old Cattle sold very well to an average of 119ppkg for the 70 older cows, 153ppkg for the older bulls, 156ppkg for 148ppkg for the under 48 month steers and heifers. J T Lewis & Co Dofor Hall sold a Limousin cow weighing 762kg to a top market price of £116.86 per head. D W Evans & Sons Tynmawr sold a Charolais cow weighing 818kg to £1145.20. Bulls topped at £1457.28 for a Limousin bull weighing 1012kg from J A Woods & Sons Kinnor Hall. J T Lewis & Co Dofor Hall gets the Briarwood Products Ltd Prize of £25 for the highest price older cow on the day. Weekly sale of Over Thirty Month Older Cattle at 9am.

FAT CATTLE (25)

An entry of 25 fat cattle sold very well to average 187ppkg for 12 steers, 182ppkg for 2 bulls and 186ppkg for 11 heifers. J M Rowlands Dolven presented a Blonde D'Aquitaine heifer weighing 602kg to a top price of 224ppkg which was bought by Rikki Lloyd of Welshpool. J E Gittins and Sons Ystymol Colwyn sold eight fat cattle to a top price of 197ppkg and all average 190.6ppkg. Jones Ystradgynyll sold three fat steers to a top price of 200ppkg. J M Rowlands receives the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest price animal sold on the day.

PRIME LAMBS (5900)

An entry of 5900 prime lambs, selling to average of 178ppkg. Supper Lights (44) to 160ppkg from W I Ellis Talwrn. Lights (619) to 184ppkg from W H Edwards & Co Highgate,

JM & IM Lewis Erwbaf & P Unwin Tynmawr. Others to 182ppkg from D G Jones & Son. J M Rowlands Dolven presented a Blonde D'Aquitaine heifer weighing 602kg to a top price of 224ppkg which was bought by Rikki Lloyd of Welshpool. J E Gittins and Sons Ystymol Colwyn sold eight fat cattle to a top price of 197ppkg and all average 190.6ppkg. Jones Ystradgynyll sold three fat steers to a top price of 200ppkg. J M Rowlands receives the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest price animal sold on the day.

Standards (1397) to 179ppkg from P Andrews Lower Fachwen & R G K Hodnett Willey House. Others to 195ppkg from J Edwards Mount Farm. Average of 180ppkg. Medium's (2254) to 179ppkg from T P W Davies Lawnt Isaf and R A Davies Lawnt Isaf. Others to 196ppkg from J Edwards Mount Farm. Average of 177ppkg. Heavies (1215) to 179ppkg from G P Pugh & Son The Garth. Others to 178ppkg from D R Owen & Sons Sandilands. Average of 166ppkg.

Over Weights (290) to 162ppkg from DES & ER Bickerton Loran Uchaf & D R Owen & Sons Sandilands. Others to 160ppkg from G Bound & Sons Cefn Bach. Average of 154ppkg. Weekly Sales of Fat Lambs at 10am.

CULL EWES (1810)

A reduced number of cull sheep selling to an average of £53.08 for ewes and £85.88 for rams. D R Owen & Sons Sandilands sold cull ewes to a top market price of £107 per head. DC & PE Hughes Cae Sidnan sold cull ewes to £106 per head. Cull rams topped at £242 per head from RL & ME Jukes Tynyryn. Weekly sales of Cull Sheep to follow the sale of fat lambs.

STORE EWES AND STORE LAMBS

Store Lambs. Another strong entry of 1,069 store lambs entered the prize sale, sponsored by Mr Alan Brock of H J Lea Oakes selling to a strong average of £57 per head. Top price theave lamb from R P Wilson Pylau realised £74 while Texel mixed and clean lambs made £72.50 from Gefncoed

Farms, Coed y Parc, who also gained 1st prize in the best pen in ewe lambs, and top lambs from D W Roberts Glamorgan achieved £79.

Store Ewes. A reduced entry of 243 breeding ewes and ewe lambs were sold through the ring. The only entry in the breeding ewe section, were full mouth mule ewes from W V Jones Lymore selling to £70. Pure texel ewe lambs from E L Evans & Co Green Farm sold to £120. More Store lambs required to meet a very strong demand.

COWS & CALVES

A special entry presented by FG & G Mountford Wallop Hall of British Blue 1st calves with Limousin calves at foot and British Blue 1st calves in calf to a limousin bull due to calf in April 2012 sold to excellent trade. Top price was £1920 for a British Blue 1st calf with a Limousin bull calf at £1700. 12 cows and calves averaged £1532.50. Leading the way in the In calf section of the sale was a January 2009-born heifer in calf to a Limousin due April 2012 which sold for £1450. Overall 12 In calf heifers averaged £1247.

Next sale of cows and calves will take place on Monday, November 14, 2011. DAIRY COWS A much better entry of 21 dairy cattle met with an excellent trade which the quality on offer deserved. The trade resulted in an overall average of £1807 for the heifers and £1800 for the cows. Leading the way was a Preston Shaker daughter from R R Corfield Bronyant which sold for £2320. Rob Corfield also had another Pedigree heifer to £1960. M T Jones Elms Farm presented a heifer which had calved 10 days, which sold for £2100. T G Phillips Burgeid and WA EM Morris Maes-

tanyglwyden both hit £2000 for heifers giving close to 30 litres a piece. W C Trow & Son Great Hem sold to £1920. K S Jones & Son Lane Farm sold third calf sired by Fenshall Silver for £1960. Another silver daughter giving 34 made £1870. A Winston Stormatic daughter, 2nd calf again from Phil Jones sold for £1930. A breakdown of all prices as follows:

£2000+ 4 lots, £1900 - £2000 4 lots, £1800 - £1900 2 lots, £1700 - £1800 5 lots, £1600 - £1700 3 lots, £1500 - £1600 1 lot, £1400 - £1500 2 lots, less than £1400 lots.

Next sale of dairy cattle will take place on Monday, November 21.

ORGANIC STORE CATTLE

A very successful November Store Cattle fair took place at Welshpool Livestock Market on Tuesday, November 23, with a catalogue entry of 155 store cattle on offer. Heifer averaged 177.7ppkg and steers 186ppkg. Top prices were as follows: Store Steers (per head) Limousin (x1) 610kg £1170

Limousin (x1) 590kg £1065 P Evans Ystrad Uchaf Limousin (x2) 540kg £1060 P Jones & Son Dolgwenith Charolais (x1) 575kg £1050 W & MA Jones Clwydyronen Charolais (x1) 615kg £1040 P Evans Ystrad Uchaf Store Heifers (per head) Limousin (x1) 610kg £1070 DW & SE Richards Rhallt Farm Limousin (x2) 565kg £1030 IJ & MEO Jones Plasmodoc Limousin (x1) 545kg £1020 IJ & MEO Jones Plasmodoc Limousin (x1) 522kg £1010 IJ & MEO Jones Plasmodoc Limousin (x2) 510kg £970 P Jones & Son Dolgwenith Store Steers (Per KG)

Limousin (x1) 365kg 220.50ppkg G P Vaughan & Son Dolgorslwyn Limousin (x1) 425kg 220.00ppkg G P Vaughan & Son Dolgorslwyn Limousin (x1) 395kg 217.70ppkg G P Vaughan & Son Dolgorslwyn Limousin (x5) 410kg 217.10ppkg M & G V Ellis & Son Penllys Limousin (x1) 370kg 216.20ppkg G P Vaughan & Son Dolgorslwyn Other cattle (x1) 460kg 210.90ppkg M C Jones & Co Dollos Store Heifers (Per KG) British Blue (x1) 425kg 211.80ppkg G P Vaughan & Co Dolgorslwyn Limousin (x2) 460kg 203.30ppkg M & G V Ellis & Son Penllys Charolais (x2) 427kg 197.30ppkg M & G V Ellis & Son Penllys Other Cattle (x1) 470kg 197.70ppkg M C Jones Dollos Limousin (x1) 445kg 194.40ppkg M & G V Ellis & Son Penllys Limousin (x2) 522kg 193.50ppkg IJ & MEO Jones Plasmodoc

Forthcoming Sales: Thursday, November 10, Pedigree Charolais Bull Sale, Monday, November 14, Cows and Calves, Monday, November 21, Dairy Cows, Tuesday, November 22, Store Cattle Fair, Monday, November 28, Cows and Calves, Monday, December 5, Christmas Fatstock Show and Sale, Monday, December 12, Cows and Calves, Monday, December 19, Dairy Cows and Christmas Cracker of Texel in Lamb Ewes.

Oswestry
cattle auctions

FAT CATTLE: (74)

At last some good runs of handyweight cattle forward met a very fast trade with heifers to 223p, steers to 209p and bulls to 214p. Highest in the lump was £1,355 for a steer. An overall market average of 184p was achieved with 125p bottom book for a plain Limousin heifer. Keep these cattle coming as we have the buyers to accommodate them. Young bulls (19) overall average 183p. Light bulls (2) average 167p (£752/head) selling to 175p from J E Evans & Sons Tedsmore Farm. Medium bulls (9) average 177p (£885/head) selling to 214p from D G Lewis & Co Geffron. Heavy bulls (8) average 191.5p (£1175/head) selling to 208p from D G Lewis & Co Geffron. Steers (18) overall average 176p. Medium steers (8) average 171.5p (£890/head) selling to 193p from M & S Jones Lower Forest Farm. Heavy steers (10) average 182.5p (£1,190/head) selling to 209p from R E Hughes Parc Farm. Heifers (37) overall average 188.5p. Light heifers (3) average 179.5p (£665/head) selling to 210p from H W & D A Davies Ty Nant. Medium heifers (19) average 192.5p (£875/head) selling to 229p from D Hughes Plasgwyn Bungalaw. Heavy heifers (15) average 185.5p (£1,015/head) selling to

210p from A & J Powell Bro-niarth Hall. Seventeen cattle over 200p today up to 229p, please keep them coming as we have the buyers that want them. Thank you for your support.

FAT LAMBS: (4168)

Superlights to 163p average 161.5p, lights to 182p average 171.5p, standards to 194p average 178p, mediums to 188p average 176p, heavy's to 171p average 163.5p, others to 164p average 145.5p. Overall average 176p.

FAT EWES: (1168)

Ewes to £90 average £42.00, rams to £100.00, average £63. Please note all sheep entering the market must be tagged.

CALVES: (67)

More buyers attending today ensuring a strong bidding throughout best continentals keenly contested. Friesians similar money to a top of £162. Charolais bulls to £330 & £300 (twice) from Messrs Pryce Coednawr. British Blue bulls to £330 from Messrs Bowen Glanwytyn £305 & £250 from Messrs Davies Lower Fawng. Simmental bulls to £296 from Messrs Gilman Birch Hall £260 from Messrs Healey The Grange. Limousin bulls to £305 from Messrs Bowen Glanwytyn £278 from Messrs Williams Lighthouse Hall. Limousin heifers to £285 & £250 from Messrs Bowen Glanwytyn £280 from Messrs Williams Ty Mawr. Charolais heifers to £240 from Messrs Foulkes Seletyn Lodge. Hereford bulls to £236 from Messrs Holland Askes Farm. British Blue Heifers to £220 from Messrs Edwards Ty Newydd. Friesian Bulls to £162 & £140 from Messrs Morris Cunnant £162 from Messrs Evans

Dolgynlenn £124 from Messrs Jones Marton Grange £122 from Hughes Penybryn £94 from Messrs Andrew Neuadd Uchaf £88 from Messrs Edwards Lower Sweeney.

U72 & CULL COWS: (96)

An excellent entry of 96 cattle met with an easier trade for the plain sorts but still a strong demand for sleeking cattle and the best. Top price U72 cow 140p/kg, top price cow 163p/kg, top price U72 heifer 167p/kg, top price U72 steer 183p/kg, top price overall £1399.95

Cows

Charolais to 163p average 136.44p/kg; Aberdeen Angus to 139p average 129.93p/kg; Friesian to 128p average 108.80p/kg. Heifers: Charolais to 146p average 141.56p/kg; Limousin to 167p average 154.99p/kg; Friesian to 148p average 124.83p/kg. Steers: Charolais to 159p average 158.42p/kg; Friesian to 150p average 141.44p/kg; Blonde D'Aquitaine to 183p average 181.46p/kg. Cows: Limousin to 140p average 116.75p/kg; Belgian Blue to 144p average 99.36p/kg; Friesian to 127p average 105.59p/kg; Welsh Black to 131p average 120.48p/kg; Aberdeen Angus to 126p average 106.49p/kg. 96 Cattle average 114.85p/kg.

If any vendor has changed their farm assured details please could you notify the market office on (01691) 653547 so our data base can be updated.

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FEATURES

01691 668094

Time to remember feathered friends

HAVING recently moved house, it has only just been feasible for me to leave the back-breaking chores of painting and decorating and make a start on the garden.

Thankfully, at this time of the year, most people's gardens look somewhat unkempt, no matter how kempt you try and keep it. Greens fade to yellows, yellows to browns, browns to the ground. It is the annual cycle of loss, death and decay.

As I've mentioned before, trees and shrubs have another agenda other than to make themselves look pretty in the late autumn sun. All the toxins that have built up over the year are stored in the leaves. The nutrient supply to these is then cut off at the tips of the branches and the leaves die and fall off, taking the tree's toxins with them. Ingenious.

My house's previous occupants were obviously wildlife-minded and I am forever finding nooks and crannies with bird boxes cunningly placed to give their inhabitants a secluded place in which to bring up baby.

There are heaps of leaves and wood piles, ideal for hedgehogs and beetles alike and the pond is sure to contain the resident frogs, deep in its muddy bottom.

But it is without doubt a birder's garden and the ever present flocks of house sparrows are accompanied by half a dozen colored doves, several starlings, chaffinches, a robin, four blue tits and the all over-seeing sparrow hawk, betraying its presence only with an occasional attack and a puff of feathers, neatly scattered on the lawn.

ON THE WILD SIDE with Ben Waddams



If you, like me, are fascinated with our feathered friends, then why not visit the Shropshire Birds website and check out all the latest sightings online before braving the cold yourself. Visit <http://www.shropshirebirds.com> and click on 'Bird Reports' for sightings from all over the county.

As you will notice, the delightful fieldfares and redwings are making their presence known now and should soon be seen in large numbers on the roadsides, feasting on the hawthorn berries. But I'm one for the underdog. As the foliage in our gardens and the surrounding countryside decreases, our smallest residents will become more apparent.

The wren, troglodytes troglodytes is a secluded, solitary animal and indeed this is one meaning of his latin name – the other being cave dweller, which I'm not quite sure why that would apply. However, in the winter months, wrens become altogether more companionable.

The aforementioned nest boxes in one's garden, should be cleaned out as soon as possible and some new material, put back in (wool or hay will work well). This is in order for the wrens and other small garden birds to benefit from a warm roosting spot, safe, dry and sheltered. When this is provided, small birds, namely wrens, will flood in for the evening, often with half a dozen or so, sensibly sharing one box.

Up to 60 have been reported sharing a single roost and so you can rest assured that whilst we warm our toes by the open fire, we have done everything we can to make sure our gardens are as cosy for the natural history that shares them with us. And with that, I'm off for a cuppa.

See Ben's wren paintings and other new original artworks at this weekend's Fair in the Square, Shrewsbury, on Saturday from 9am-5pm.



Wren on branch study – by Ben Waddams.

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 Bruno Mars, *Let it rain*
 Ed Sheeran, *Lego house*
 Pixie Lott, *All about tonight*
 The Wanted, *Lightning*
 Katy Perry, *Last Friday night*

A slightly quieter week on the breakfast show this week as we have now passed the Halloween and Bonfire celebrations and are prepared for the countdown to Christmas.

Have you made any plans for Christmas yet? It is literally around the corner and approaching fast.

Last week I told you how I'd bought my first Christmas present of the year, haven't actually bought any more since, which just confirms that it was a one off impulse buy. Listen out for our Advent Calendar competition during December with loads of prizes to give away.

Carlie and I recently hosted the Shropshire County Show's annual firework and Bonfire spectacular at the West Mid Show Ground. We had a brilliant night with the fun fair, food stalls and live music from The Endings on stage with us. It was a perfectly clear night, albeit a little on the cold side, but once the bonfire was alight, everyone suddenly warmed up. The firework display was brilliant and even started exactly on our countdown.

In local news; Oswestry Christmas Live is back on December 2 which turns the centre of Oswestry into a giant outdoor concert. The first band takes to the stage at 6pm followed by music until 10pm. The streets are closed to

traffic and filled with stalls, a fun fair and other attractions. The festivities continue the following day with a Christmas Parade of vehicles and festive walkers through the town from 11am in aid of charity.

As we approach Christmas, remember to let me know the information of your event or group by emailing me with all the details, we'll try and give you a mention during the breakfast show and I will do my best to attend. Email me neil.bentley@thesevern.co.uk or you can always contact the studio by phone on 0333 456 0777.

Finishing with the bonfire stories for this year, check out the YouTube video of this year's Oban Firework display in Scotland. The organisers had carefully planned a 30-minute display of light and sound which would be very cleverly controlled by a computer, and there lies the problem. What do you do when your computer fails and launches every firework at the same time? Well, this video answers that question. You have to feel sorry for the organisers who watched several thousand pounds worth of fireworks explode like a warzone barrage in 30 seconds. I think my back garden display lasted longer.

The Neil Bentley Breakfast Show, weekdays from 6am on 106.5, 107.1 and 107.4fm The Severn. Follow us on Twitter @thesevern or listen online at www.thesevern.co.uk. You can also hear the highlights of the show on our podcast available via the website.

Car overturns on rural road

A MOTORIST escaped injury after their car overturned on the Overton Road at St Martins, near Oswestry, at about 9pm on Saturday.

Firefighters from Chirk and Oswestry attended the scene to make the vehicle safe. Police said the incident did not result in the road being closed.

Fire incident at town play area

FIREFIGHTERS WERE called to a fire involving play equipment in Oswestry.

The incident took place on the recreation ground in Coney Green at about 5pm on Sunday. A crew from Oswestry dealt with the fire.

Enterprising pupils open their play on hall's stage

YOUNG THESPIANS liked their school play so much they hired the village hall to put it on again.

Pupils from St John The Baptist School in Ruyton-XI-Towns, all aged between eight and 10, have independently approached the village hall committee to hire out the venue for their next showing of the production.

Colin Case, village hall committee member, said: "The village hall committee is keen to support such

ambition and enthusiasm and so have offered the hall on a 'risk share' basis.

"Half of any proceeds will go to school funds and the other half will go to the village hall - which might win or lose compared to the normal hire charge."

"The children were walking past the village hall and we had left the doors open as we were painting."

"They saw a there was a proper stage and wanted to put the play on."

"They saw me in the vil-

lage hall and asked if they could do it. They are quite entrepreneurial and quite empowered."

The date for the show is set for November 19 and youngsters hope to get a good audience.

They are fixing all the arrangements themselves including the lighting, sound, selling tickets, publicity and refreshments.

Mr Case said: "We have not got a pantomime this year so let's all support the children and the school."

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Saab makes a welcome return with its superb 9.3 SportWagon

DRIVE TIME

with Graham Breeze



ANYONE WHO thought Saab's days were numbered better think again if the 9.3 SportWagon is anything to go by.

This is a distinctive-looking and well equipped executive sports estate with space to spare and at a competitive price for the segment.

The Saab brand has been to hell and back over the last few years but this type of vehicle will put the company back where it belongs – as producers of some of the best and safest cars on the market.

The SportWagon is focused on combining practicality with a 'fun to drive' experience. The all-turbo engine line-up is backed by advanced chassis features such as Saab XWD, an active all-wheel-drive system.

Sporty

The SportWagon's muscular proportions are a bold affirmation of Saab's tradition for designing cars that are sporty in character and versatile in use.

It offers a compelling alternative choice in the premium, compact segment of the station wagon market.

The all-turbo powertrain line-up offers a power bandwidth from 130hp to 220hp and advanced all-wheel-drive technology.

Modern Scandinavian design is written all over this model. There's the bold and assertive stance while its cohesive, five-door bodystyle inherits the 'combi-coupe' genes of the first Saab 99 Turbo.

In common with all Saab cars, the cabin is designed from the driver outwards.

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mentation, the controls and the seating position are all developed from the driver's perspective. The SportWagon also offers a very large cargo deck.

Saab 'signature' styling cues includes wedge-like profile with its rising belt-line culminating in that distinctive 'hockey stick' curve into the

D-pillar; single side window graphic, shaping of the ice-block headlamps units and the smoked white rear light clusters.

There's bold frontal styling, a prominent central grille with its wing motif inspired by the Aero X concept car, as is the U-shaped pressing in that classic Saab clamshell hood.

The main instrument panel arcs around the driver and the steering wheel adjusts for both rake and reach.

There's a wide-opening tailgate and a low floor giving easy access to a spacious cargo deck with a 60/40 split fold rear and a ski hatch as standard.

An optional folding front passenger seatback offers further interior space.

After pulling the aircraft-shaped handle, the middle section of cargo floor hinges upwards and slots in place to provide support for the convenient stowage of shopping bags or other items in the recessed sub-floor, easily secured by a cargo net.

All models are fitted with twin front, side and curtain airbags, and anti-whiplash head restraints as standard. Stability control is also standard across the range.

Excellent

The security provision is comprehensive and historically 9-3s have had an excellent reputation for keeping thieves out.

The MY12 SE 1.9TDiD on test had an on-the-

road price of £24,120, which is better than a lot of the rivals in segment, with 17in five-spoke alloy wheels adding a touch of class.

Optional features including black leather sports interior, electric driver's seat, tinted rear windows, matt chrome roof rails and a cargo pack pushed the price up to £26,675.

For such a big car, 0-60mph in 8.7seconds and a top speed of 140mph are a surprise, while CO2 emissions of just 119g/km make the model an attractive company car purchase.

Combined fuel economy figures of 62.8mpg seem too good to be true, but during a week's motoring it was plain to see that this big car is certainly no gas guzzler.

Welcome back Saab. I've really missed you.

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55 Years

Mitsubishi's new Shogun roars in

WHEELS AND DEALS

Mitsubishi's new 2012 Shogun arrives in the UK this week. It now comes with a Euro V compliant turbo diesel engine and offers a choice of either three-door short-wheel base or five-door long-wheel base versions.

Like its predecessor, the Mitsubishi Shogun is immediately distinguished by its redesigned bold front grille – incorporating a short front overhang, upright windscreen, strong high flanks, flared wheel-arches and rear-mounted spare wheel.

As well as the three and five-door options, Shogun buyers will have a choice of a four model line-up – the SG2, SG3, SG4 and the familiar Warrior, which in terms of specification will sit above the SG2.

As always, the Shogun comes packed with an array of standard safety and luxury equipment. In addition to the re-

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designed front grille, all variants will benefit from new 18-inch alloy wheels.

● Honda has awarded Joe LoCicero a brand new 2012 Accord after he hit the one million-mile mark in his 1990 model. LoCicero drives an average of 62,500 miles a year and began keeping detailed records at around 300,000 miles.

He has taken more than 661 photos of his odometer and Honda fans have been following his journey on www.millionmilejoe.com as he approached the one million-mile mark.

LoCicero was presented with his new set of keys in a surprise parade in Saco, Maine recently.

The one-block-long celebratory parade included a giant odometer float, marching bands from local schools and theatre still walkers.

Honda's strong reliability is renowned and has been recognised by publications such as What Car? and Which?

In the 2011 What Car? Warranty Direct survey, Honda was rated the UK's most reliable car manufacturer for an unprecedented sixth year in a row.



Honda hosted a surprise parade in Saco, Maine, to celebrate Joe LoCicero's amazing accomplishment. Joe also received an oversized key to a new 2012 Honda Accord from Ms. Maine, Ashley Marble.



Mitsubishi's new 2012 Shogun.

Fear that MOT every other year may well be 12 months too late

My name is Matt Joy, and I'm a neglectful car owner. It's been three months since my last oil check.

I've got no excuses for behaviour like this, but I'm going to try to come up with some anyway.

I see enough of my Honda Civic to know what's working and what isn't, and when I really should get around to doing something about it.

My other excuse is that the Honda has been utterly reliable in the four years that I've owned it.

A 12-year-old car has every right to throw a wobbly once in a while, but apart from someone attacking the fuel tank and the brake pads and a clutch wearing out, the only thing that has failed in that time was an ABS sensor.

It never cries out for attention, so regrettably it doesn't get any.

I'm no paragon of car maintenance but I bet I'm not the worst offender either.

Which is why the mooted decision to change the MOT test from an annual

exam to a biennial one sounds like a really poor idea.

The Government is using the phrase "reducing the burden" to explain the potential change, but who the burden is being relieved from isn't exactly clear.

It seems unlikely that the garages and test centres performing the annual exam would like to see their workload halved, never mind the remedial work that needs to be carried out subsequently.

Faults

Yes, us motorists could probably do with having our running costs cut, but it doesn't take a genius to work out the easiest way of doing that.

What we can't do with is unsafe or unroadworthy cars running around for another 12 months, with faults getting progressively worse.

Just five minutes wandering around a nearby car park is likely to turn up several vehicles with illegal tyres, cracked windscreens, failed bulbs and

even little things such as damaged wiper blades – they may seem like small details but in an emergency situation they could make all the difference.

We've also become relatively inept at taking care of our cars.

Some 20 or 30 years ago when your average motorist needed plenty of attention just to get going in the morning, it was essential to have a decent socket set and a few spares lurking in the back of the garage.

Now we're all far too comfortable with cars that blink warning lights at us when they need attention and are happy to let a boffin with a laptop chat to our cars about their problems.

If we could all be trusted to be attentive and vigilant car owners, then the Government's plans might make sense.

Given that some of us are neglectful and lazy on the whole, an MOT every other year might well be 12 months too late.



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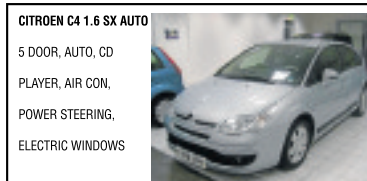
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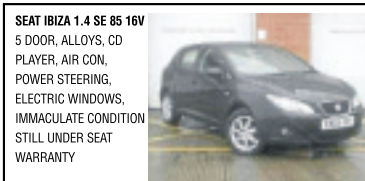
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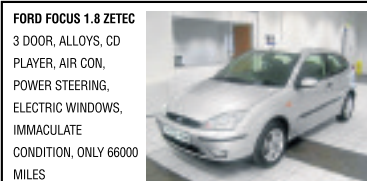
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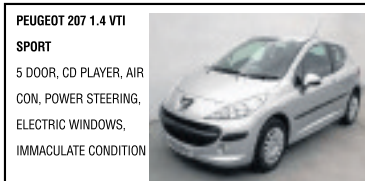
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Shoes secure last gasp cup win

THE Andrew's Cup first round had just two notable shocks last week, as both the Horseshoe Ardleen and the Social B benefited from the handicap format.

The Horseshoe won a dramatic black ball final frame 6-5 against the Cock Brockton, after their +2 start and a late three frame repeat forced an 11th frame shoot out.

Another cup upset came at the Social B, as they won the opening three frames with a +2 start, only to survive a four frame fightback from the Breidden Tigers to win 6-4.

In other games Premiership leaders the Breidden Lions were comfortable 6-3 winners over the Herbert Arms (+2 start), and Cock A Fordon were never in trouble as they beat fellow premiership opponents Argae A 6-1.

Division one leaders the Punchbowl A Llandrinio won 6-4 at the Cock B, and the Oak B had a top away result beating the Talbot Topdogs 6-4.

The Westwood Slayers won 6-4 away at the Crown Studs, but a +3 start for King's Head Guilsfield still wasn't enough at the Pheasant Nomads, who won 6-4.

The Talbot D showed no nerves as they beat the Welly Wasps 6-3 despite a three frame giveaway, and the Castle Boys defeated the Welly Dukes 6-4 from a 2 frame handicap.

A cracker of a game at Cal-low Inn, saw the Pheasant B edge the contest 6-5, while the Oak A won 6-4 away at the Lion Llansantffraid.

The Angel A saw the Pinewood Tavern's challenge off with a 6-3 win and the Black Lion Llanfair impressed 6-2 away at the Green Dragon Buttington, while the last game saw Cobra Meifod beat Courthouse Judges 6-3.

Finally, in the league games there were massive results for the Breidden Lions and Talbot Flunkies. The Lions defeated the socialites 9-1 in the Premiership while in division one the Flunkies beat Horse & Jockey by the same scoreline.

Youngster makes fine debut but falls short

THE latest round of Oswestry Table Tennis League matches saw two Llanislin pair Ewan Foulks and Tom Lloyd face off.

The first set was very tight with the scores level at 10-10, then 13-13 and again at 14-14.

But Lloyd was then unable to return a forehand shot and Foulks took the next point to take the set 16-14.

This seemed to calm Foulks, who went on to take the second set 11-2. Ollie Harris (Crittins) then took on seven-year-old newcomer Jack Hughes.

The youngster started tentatively and was easily beaten in the first set 11-2.

In the second Hughes started to play some fine shots against the far more experienced Harris, including several excellent left handed forehand drive winners to take the set 11-9.

The final set went to the wire, and at 10 all it was still anyone's match, but the experience of Harris saw him through to an 13-11 win.

Harris then continued his good form to defeat Lloyd in two straight sets. The final win and runner up positions, were to be settled on the last match of the group.

Harris easily defeated Foulks 11-2, but Foulks fought back to take the second set 11-8. In the final set Harris held his nerve and took the final set 12-10.



Flying - Ben Power roars on as Brands Hatch

Ben saves best until last at Brands

MID Wales driver Ben Power survived a car fire to secure a podium finish in his best end of season championship finish in an incident-packed final weekend at Brands Hatch.

The 21-year-old from Welshpool finished seventh in the UK Legends Car Championship after picking up valuable points in the final two-day event.

Power had to "scrub in" new tyres in Saturday's opening races, but still managed two ninth places and a fifth. He started the first of Sunday's races

from the front row and was going really well, running in second place until a car hit him in the side to send him into a spin.

Oil leak

Power rejoined the race but a few laps later his engine started to leak oil - and before he could reach the pits it caught fire.

He pulled up next to a marshals post, where it was put out, and his team managed to get the car out for race two where he finished 12th from the back of the grid.

The final race saw him take the lead from a second-row start, but championship front-runners John Mickel and Lawrence Davey got past on the last lap, leaving Power to finish third.

"It was a real up-and-down weekend, to finish a real up-and-down season," admitted Power.

"Overall though, seventh place in the championship is a good performance. If luck had been on our side, we could have ended much higher.

"It certainly shows we are progressing every year."

Oswestry heartened ahead of top-of-table derby day clash

IMPROVING Oswestry were locked in a thrilling 4-4 draw at Rugely in the West Midlands division two - but felt it was a chance missed after playing the better hockey and missing plenty of chances.

It proved a frustrating outcome, but the border side can take heart from the performance when they entertain North Shropshire rivals Whitchurch on Saturday.

After a barren start to the season, prospects are now looking up with a win and a draw in their last two outings, and they showed their renewed confidence with an excellent display last week in which they enjoyed plenty of possession.

Oswestry started off the better team, putting Rugely under pressure right from the first whistle but, against the run of play, their hosts took the lead on the break and added a second soon after.

Despite this double setback, Oswestry kept up the pressure, winning a short corner which Rory Jones converted with a drag flick to reduce the arrears.

And the visitors then drew level when Jon Chappel's short corner strike was deflected and fell to Matt Smart who slotted home.

They upped the ante further, and deservedly got their noses in front when Jody Wilson and Chappel linked up well in the D resulting in Chappel tucking the ball into the corner of the goal.

Oswestry continued to dominate from the start of the second half, however it was Rugely who scored next, once more against the run of play.

Pressure

The visitors then capitalised on their pressure when Charles Evans scored with a neat finish to put them in sight of the win, but Rugely then equalised when they converted an under-served penalty flick.

Oswestry piled on the pressure to try and grab a late winner but could not find the back of the goal despite coming close on several occasions on a frustrating afternoon.

Meanwhile, Oswestry II suffered back-to-back defeats in North Wales League when they went down 6-2 at home to Dysynni.

Having seen their unbeaten start end when being downed 8-2 at Aberystwyth University III the previous week, the border side did not fare much better last weekend.

They were in touch at half time after an even first period finished level with the scores at one apiece.

But Dysynni soon surged ahead in the second period to

Super Sophie is all smiles



Welshpool's Sophie Vingoe, a 14-year-old pupil at Shrewsbury High School, shows off her haul of medals and trophies after a successful trip to Berlin to compete with the Samurai UK Karate Team in the Samurai European Championships. Sophie, from Welshpool, was successful in each category, achieving golds in individual fighting and team fighting and bronze in team kata. Sophie's performance contributed to an overall win for the UK team.

complete what turned out to be a comfortable win.

Rory Jones and Charles Evans were on target.

After two defeats, Oswestry's second string will be out to bounce back in Sunday's trip to Wrexham Glyndwr IV.

Wayne sees off the Aussies

LLANFAIR Caereinion hot-shot Wayne Smith has captained the British Lions pool team to a famous victory over Australia in a Test series in Sydney this month.

Despite trailing 2-1 with two to play, Smith led the fightback to carve out two victories and a 3-2 win. He won 10 of his 16 frames.

Trophy time for bowlers at presentation evening



Llanhaeadr Bowling Club held their annual presentation evening last month at the Wynnstay in Llanhaeadr. Pictured above are all the club trophy winners who had plenty to smile about after a successful season on the greens.

Latest from all the greens

LAKESIDE

The Winter Turkey Trail continued on the Goffa with a Medal competition on Saturday with the turkey going to first placed Rich Birch (22) with a fine score of 42. Second was Andrew Wartkin (10) with 43 and third was Richard Jones (5) with 45.

Sunday's Bogey competition was won by Sammy Marek (19) with a score of level par.

Second was Brangwy Edwards (23) with -1 ahead of Bert Williams (9) in third also with -1.

The nine hole Winter Nett & Gross leagues continued this week with a fine turn out again competing for valuable league points.

Young Charlie Reynolds (20) produced another fine round returning an excellent 20 stableford points.

Close behind in second was past ladies captain Sandy Knight (23) with 19 points, just edging the fast improving Mike Evans (21) into third.

The gross league returned the following results: 1 Vice Captain Dougie Anderson, 2 Joe Davies, 3 Reynolds.

This week sees the continuation of the winter leagues alongside Saturday's monthly 18 hole stableford competition.

Too of times are available throughout the day. Members are reminded that they must utilise the new entry fee system that is now in place.

LLANYMYNECH

November Stableford: Div 1, 1 Winston McLauchlan 41pts, 2 Andy Don 41pts, 3 Graham Roberts 40pts.

Div 2: 1 Andrew G Williams 46pts, 2 Ross Bevan 41pts, 3 Paul Clark 40pts. Div 3: 1 John H Jones 41pts, 2 Lionel Lee 40pts, 3 Terry Edwards 38pts.

Christmas Comp 4. Four-Ball Betterball Stableford: 1 Charlie Jones & Roy Jones 45pts, 2 Brian Beckett & Andy Don 43pts, 3 Garry Pugh & Mark Kirkham.

MILE END

Texas Team Scramble: 1 Gavin Wright, Mark Manson. Paul & Angela Eke 58-12=46, 2 Alan Stansbie, Hugh Pritchard, Pete Beckett 61-15=46, 3 Barry Woosnam, Garth Richards, Andy Jones, Carl Woosnam 60-13.3=46.7.

Ladies Monday Social: 1 Margaret Salisbury, Angela Eke, Sue O'Connor 7pts, 2 Janice Turner, Trish Richards, Carol Ashley 74pts. Seniors October Stableford 1 John Blandford 43pts, 2 Levin Bennett 43pts, 3 John Seal 40pts.

Div 2: 1 John Hughes 41pts, 2 Jeff Roberts 40pts, 3 Mike Eastwood 39pts.

Sunday Social: 1 Moya Holmes, Janice Turner, Stuart Russell, Richard Meyer 43pts, 2 Di Bradbury, Gavin Wright, John Seal 42pts.

October Stableford: Div 1 1 Ron Pugh 40pts, 2 John Seal 39pts, 3 Allen Kerr 39pts.

Div 2: 1 Malcolm McKay 45pts, 2 Ernan MacCabe 39pts, 3 Paul Chandler 39pts. Div 3: 1 Ann Holloway 41pts, 2 Alan Dovaston 42pts, 3 John Horler 40pts.

Ladies Monday Stableford 1 Marianna Sharman 34pts, 2 Moya Holmes 33pts, 3 Anne Bayley 31pts.

WELSHPOOL

Saturday's Stableford Turkey Trail was played in very wet and windy conditions, with the eventual win going to Martin Mitten (22) with 30pts.

Second was Charlie Birch (25) with 30pts beaten on countback and third was Richard Jones (9) 29pts.

Sunday's Medal competition was played over 12 Holes winner Graham Roberts (14) carding 48, second was Richard Templeton (6) with 48 beaten on countback and third was Alun Evans (10) with 49.

Lavender nets win

A STORMING run from Oswestry Olympian Alison Lavender saw her win the Colwyn Bay North Wales cross country held in Llandudno.

And she was complemented by great runs from the other members of the Oswestry Ladies team to maintain second place in the Division one ladies league.

In the senior mens race Peter Butler and Paul Jones had top six places and good packing from the rest of the team ensured that Oswestry remain a strong third as they push for promotion from Division two.

Jimmy Kershaw once again had a great run finishing third in the Youths race. The next race is at Deeside on November 12.

SPORT

English Rugby League

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	P	W	L	F	Pts
Ruskin Park	10	8	0	2	8
Crews Nant	10	8	0	2	8
Doddies IOM	9	9	0	1	6
Oswestry	9	7	0	2	7
Selton	10	7	0	3	1
Veagabons IOM	8	4	1	5	24
Dunkinfield	10	4	1	5	24
Southport	10	4	0	6	21
Maesbury	10	4	0	6	21
Ellesmere Port	9	3	0	6	13
More	10	3	0	7	12
Queshaws	10	3	0	7	12
Ramsay IOM	9	2	1	6	3
Trentham	8	2	1	6	8

SWALEC League

DIVISION 2 NORTH

	P	W	L	F	Pts
Rhyl	7	5	1	250	39
COBRA	8	7	1	161	100
Colwyn Bay	8	5	3	255	143
Doggellau	6	5	1	172	68
Llandudno	8	3	5	165	120
Abergele	8	3	5	134	210
Deiniolen	8	3	5	93	177
Newtown	8	1	6	116	185
Wrexham	7	1	6	126	231

DIVISION 3 NORTH

	P	W	L	F	Pts
Shotton Steel	7	7	0	527	35
Rhoslanerchrugog	6	5	1	332	62
Harscheid	6	5	1	302	107
Llangollen	5	5	0	209	56
Menai Bridge	8	4	1	179	221
Berlloch	7	4	1	162	137
Flint	5	2	3	30	181
Welshpool	6	2	4	132	220
Holyhead	6	1	5	64	218
Bangor	8	0	8	33	393
Llangidlo	0	0	0	0	0
Cae'r Borden	4	0	4	3	403

Welshpool Dominoes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	Pts
Pinewood C	7	6	1	34	15
Pinewood A	8	5	3	33	23
G Dragon But B	8	5	3	32	24
Pinewood Dragons	7	5	2	29	20
Social Club A	7	4	3	29	20
Cock P/A	8	4	4	28	28
Celts	7	4	3	27	22
Railway	8	3	5	27	29
Sun Inn	7	3	4	25	24
Powis Arms P/Q	8	3	5	25	31
Compasses	7	2	5	19	30
Dragon But A	7	2	5	17	21
RAF Boys	7	1	6	11	38

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	Pts
Waterloo	8	6	0	37	9
Kings Head	8	2	6	37	19
Breidden	8	5	3	34	22
Maesbury Bunch	8	5	3	33	23
Westwood Ward	8	6	2	33	23
Dragonflies	8	5	3	32	24
Cock A	8	5	3	30	26
Angel	8	5	3	29	31
Bowling Club	8	5	3	25	31
Horseshoe	8	5	3	25	31
Grapes	8	5	3	21	35
Westwood	8	2	6	21	35
Talbot	8	5	3	20	36
Wellington	8	4	4	9	47

Stonehouse Brewery

Oswestry Dominoes

	P	W	L	F	Pts
Black Lion B	7	6	0	29	13
Bel Oswestry	7	4	1	27	15
Cross Keys	7	4	2	25	17
Horseshoe	7	4	2	24	18
White Lion	7	4	2	22	20
Royal Oak	7	4	3	21	21
Black Lion A	7	4	3	21	21
Bradford Arms	7	3	2	20	22
Top White Lion	7	3	4	19	23
Pemberton Inn	6	2	3	16	20
Pias Yn Dinas B	7	2	4	18	24
Railway Inn	6	2	4	16	20
Pias Yn Dinas A	7	2	4	16	20
Black Horse	7	0	6	14	28

Royal Oak 4, White Lion Lynchys 2, Cross Keys 4, Bel 2, Horseshoe 2, Black Lion B 4, Black Lion A 5, Bradford Arms 1, Pias Yn Dinas B 3, Pias Yn Dinas A 3, Railway Inn 4, Top White Lion 5, Pemberton Inn 4, Black Horse 2.

North Wales Women's

Hockey League

	P	W	L	F	Pts
Wylfryn III	5	4	1	21	16
Bollington	7	1	19	7	14
Alderley Edge III	7	4	1	18	9
Nepton St Wmral IL	7	4	2	15	13
Oswestry	7	2	22	6	11
Timperley IV	7	3	4	12	26
North Hall II	7	1	10	11	7
Desidero Ramblers II	7	1	9	17	3
Whitchurch II	7	1	6	1	23
Beblington	7	2	2	6	15

MENS WEST MIDLANDS 2

	P	W	L	F	Pts
King'swinford	6	6	0	55	18
Bromsgrove	6	5	0	21	5
Whitchurch	6	5	1	22	13
Pershore	6	4	2	25	11
Ludlow	6	4	2	23	11
Bromsgrove	6	4	2	23	11
Newtown	6	3	3	17	21
Yardley	6	2	4	12	25
Oswestry	6	1	4	14	24
Rugley	6	1	4	7	26
Kynoch	6	5	8	44	3
Barnston	6	0	5	29	0

Andrews Fishbar

Welshpool Pool League

	P	W	L	F	Pts
Breidden Lions	6	5	0	38	24
Cock A	6	5	0	36	24
Talbot D	6	5	1	44	16
Pennant Nomads	7	2	4	25	10
Oak A	7	4	1	41	29
Colwyn	6	2	1	21	10
Angel A	6	2	1	28	7
The Lions Laird	7	0	3	31	39
Social Club	7	0	3	31	39
Courthouse Judges	6	1	4	22	38
Castle Boys	6	1	4	20	40
Angel B	6	5	2	40	2
Argyle A	7	0	6	21	49

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	Pts
Punchbowl A	7	5	1	42	28
Breidden Tigers	7	4	2	39	31
Horse & Jockey	7	4	2	36	34
Colwyn	7	4	2	29	35
Talbot Topdogs	6	4	2	34	26
Oak B	7	2	2	38	32
Colwyn Flunkies	6	2	4	36	6
Cock B	7	2	3	34	36
Cock Brockton	6	2	2	39	31
Westwood Warriors	6	1	2	26	34
Welly Dukes	7	1	4	29	41

Heavy loss for seconds

IT WAS a day to forget for Oswestry II who crashed 88-20 at Knutsford counterparts in the University of Salford North West League division four south.

After two defeats, they will be out to bounce back at home to Crews and Nantwich III on Saturday (2.30pm).

They felt hard done by last week's Knutsford included a few first teamers who did not have a game, and also a debutant fullback who proved a class act with four first half tries.

Mixed magic for Oswestry

OSWESTRY Tennis Club's first mixed team went into their last fixture of the season away to Lilleshall knowing that a win would give them the league title and promotion for the third successive year having won all of their previous fixtures.

The first pair of Paul Hampson and Heather Lawrence had a tough first set but just edged out their opponents 7-5.

There was a complete turnaround in the second set with the opposing first pair taking the set 2-6. In the deciding third set tie break it was very nip and tuck but Paul and Heather just managed to hang on for the win.

The second pair of Dave Linton and Carol Slater, who was drafted in at short notice

from the second team to replace the injured Katrina Holder, made short work of the opposing second pair in straight sets 6-2, 6-2.

The reverse rubbers followed a similar pattern with Paul and Heather winning in straight sets 6-0, 6-4 whilst Dave and Carol took the first set 6-3 and then were completed outplayed in the second set dropping it to love. The deciding third set tie break went with serve to nine all when an error by the Oswestry pair gave their opponents match point which they duly served out.

With three rubbers won the Oswestry team collected seven points and the prospect of playing in group two next season.

Massam's hat-trick exploits means bonus time for Eagles

LEADING try scorer Rob Massam claimed a hat-trick as Oswestry maintained their upsurge in South Lancs & Cheshire Two with a splendid 38-17 home win over Isle of Man side Ramsey.

The centre's efforts gave the Eagles a fourth straight win, and it was the second treble in successive weeks following Ollie Wilford's hat-trick the previous Saturday.

Buoyed by recent victories, Oswestry will now head to Dukinfield on Saturday as they look to keep up the pressure on the league leaders.

They started the game at a high tempo and within the first two minutes their pack were battering the Ramsey line, with Nathan Parker, Mike Keaveney and Guy Howell all going close.

And they found a way through when Jim Dillies released the backs and, from a well worked move, Massam scored the first of his tries close to the posts, Andy Howell kicking the conversion.

Ramsey were struggling to compete with the home pack and had to rely on their fly half to kick them into good field position.

But they enjoyed their best part of the game and managed some good phases of play in the Oswestry 22 and from broken play crossed the line for a converted try.

The visitors then got their noses in front when a kick sparked a mix-up in the Oswestry defence, and Ramsey secured possession before releasing their centre to score under the posts for a 14-7 lead.

Undaunted, the Eagles now took the game to Ramsey with Howell turning and teasing with his kicking and Ramsey again found themselves under threat by the dominant Oswestry pack.

Wiltong
From a line out 25 metres out Dan Samuels won good ball and the might of the pack powered to within a couple of metres of the Ramsey try line.

From this pressure the Oswestry forwards were in no mood to come away without any points and from a strong drive the previous week's hat-trick hero Wilford went over to reduce the arrears to 14-12 at the interval.

The second half started the same as the first with Oswestry taking the game to their visitors and from a forward drive well controlled by Thomas, Dillies scored his second try in as many weeks, Howell adding the conversion.

A few minutes later Ramsey kicked a penalty but it was now time for the Oswestry backs to cut loose on the wilting visiting team.

From some good phases of play Howell started releasing his backs Gaz and Ivo Hughes who fed Massam who, from 40 metres, out-paced the Ramsey defence to score in the corner. Although Howell just missed the conversion, the bonus point was secured with Oswestry 24-17 up.

With the pack battering their Ramsey counterparts Tyler Morris linked well with his centres to stretch the Ramsey defence, and from a loose kick Massam raced 50 metres to score under the posts, Howell converting.

Oswestry left the best to last, a superb move seeing Sam Martin burst through from 55 metres before being tackled close to the line, but prop Andrew Smith was in support to touch down. Howell converted to seal a 38-17 win.

Wait is over for plucky TNS

TNS Ladies finally recorded their first league win of the season with a 2-0 win over Nottingham area side Radcliffe Olympic Ladies in the Midland Women's Combination at Park Hall on Sunday.

However, Saints remain bottom of the table, three points behind Dudley United Ladies who have three games in hand.

After a scoreless first half in which both sides had chances to take the lead, an inspired 72nd minute substitution by TNS manager Rob Kydd ultimately settled the destination of the three points.

The hosts took the lead in 82nd

minute when Stephanie Kydd's low through ball down the middle found sub Hannah Jones who ran on before firing past Radcliffe keeper Sophie Turner from 22 yards.

Just a minute later it was 2-0 when Jones' through ball across goal from the right found Laura Morris.

She collected the ball and calmly placed her effort to the keeper's left hand corner from just outside the six yard box.

After a difficult season so far, this was a welcome boost for the Saints whose next scheduled game is on November 20 away to Loughborough Foxes.

Keeper's red card can't halt good run

By David Figg

TNS Youth 3 Bala Youth 2

THE New Saints continued their recent good run of results with a hard fought 3-2 home win over Bala Town Under 19 in an exciting Welsh Premier Academy League game at Park Hall.

Saints took the lead in the 17th minute when Jordan Cartwright's corner from the right found skipper Sean Ellis at the far post who headed past Bala keeper Bryn Jones.

Then in the 41st minute disaster struck for Saints.

A clearance by keeper Alex Ramsey was intercepted by Kristian Pierce who attempted to round the keeper but was adjudged by the assistant referee to have been brought down in the box, despite Ramsey's vehement protests that he had made no contact with the player.

A penalty was awarded but worse was to follow for the hosts as referee Dave Fawkes showed the keeper a straight red card to reduce Saints to 10 men.

Ellis was also yellow carded for protesting.

Saints right back Tim Hardy was sacrificed as sub keeper Josh Roberts came off the bench to take over in goal for the penalty which Pierce himself struck to Roberts' left for the 43rd minute equaliser.

Then with 20 seconds of normal time remaining at the end of the half, Saints went 2-1 up when Tom Allan's through ball on the left found Ellis who ran on before firing a left foot shot into the far corner from just inside the box.

It was 2-2 in the 68th minute when Josh Taylor crossed from the left for Josh Davies to fire home from inside the six yard box.

Then with three and a half of a scheduled four minutes of stoppage time gone at the end, Saints won it when Allan's ball over the top down the middle found Cartwright who ran on and rounded the keeper before slotting home from close range.

TNS Youth 3 Aberystwyth Youth 1

After making it safely through to the third round of the FAW Welsh Youth Cup the previous Sunday, The New Saints Youth team gained three well earned league points with a 3-1 home win over Aberystwyth Town Youth in a very entertaining game in the Welsh Premier Under 19 Academy League at Park Hall.

The visitors took the lead in the 44th minute when Harri James struck a superb right foot shot from 25 yards out into Saints keeper Josh Roberts' right hand corner.

Saints equalised in the 51st minute when Tim Hardy ran from 10 yards inside his own half through the middle before slipping the ball to Ryan Jones whose shot was saved by Aber keeper Adam Hopley but Scott Quigley scored from the rebound.

Saints went 2-1 up in the 63rd minute when Jackson Hassanyah's low through ball down the right found Jordan Cartwright, who crossed low for Quigley to turn and fire a low shot into Hopley's right hand corner from 12 yards.

It was 3-1 seconds into stoppage time at the end when Ryan Jones' through ball down the middle sent sub Dave Lloyd clear and he calmly finished past Hopley to secure a fine win for the hosts.



Oswestry's Sam Martin and Rob Massam try to halt Ramsey's Adam Yates progress



Oswestry's Thomas Thorpe attempts to wrestle the ball from Ramsey's Finton Cummins.

COBRA braced for big clash with title rivals

COBRA head for Saturday's crucial showdown at title rivals Colwyn Bay in good spirit down after returning to winning ways with a 75-10 romp at Menai Bridge in the Swalec Bowl.

After suffering their first defeat of the season the previous week at the hands of Dolgellau, the Meifod men were stung into action as they ran in 11 tries at Menai Bridge.

And the points blitz puts them in good heart for Saturday's vital trip to Bay in the Welsh League division two (north) with the sides occupying second and third respectively in the table.

"It's a big game as they're unbeaten at home and we're unbeaten away," said COBRA coach James Watkin.

"But we can go there with some confidence after last week. Menai Bridge were quite a basic side, but we played well and scored some good tries, some the length of the field."

"We were a bit more creative than we have been, and benefited from off loading the ball in the tackle instead of dying with it, while the support play was good."

"It was a good performance, particularly as we went there with a number of players missing who should be back for this weekend."

The Meifod men were in uncompromising

mood against their Anglesey hosts as they emphasised a gulf in class against a side who play one division below.

The visitors ran in 11 tries, six in the first half to lead 40-3 at the interval to effectively wrap up the win.

No 8 Dorian Lloyd led the charge with four of the touchdowns while there were two from flanker Aled Davies, as the forwards were rewarded for getting on the end of several flowing moves.

Fly half Llew Williams kicked 10 of the conversions while also crossing for a try himself, while flanker Gareth Evans, second row Lloyd Bright, prop Nico Williams and centre Iwan Vaughan also touched down.

Powerful pack

Bridge replied with a second half converted try to provide some consolation but they were well beaten long before the final whistle.

All eyes are now on Saturday's important league clash at Colwyn Bay who, despite having a powerful pack, are beatable as shown by their recent loss to Llandudno.



Telford Juniors' midfielder Gary Byrne (left) watches as his rocket header nestles in the roof of the Morda net to equalise an early goal from the visitors. But Morda hit back to win the cup tie 2-1. Picture: Steve Lowe

Heath net 8-1 win – but score nine times

LEAGUE leaders Dudleston Heath stay top of the North Shropshire Sunday League by a single point after beating Athletic Market 8-1 away. Paul Herbert giving Dudleston a 10th minute lead with Market equalising thanks to a Scott Penrose own goal.

Penrose made amends later on scoring twice at the right end, Guy Guilford and Herbert also scored two apiece with Mike Lloyd and Mark Evans netting the goal of the game, a fierce header from a Liam Goode corner.

Dudleston also had a twice taken penalty saved, Paul Herbert's spot kicks both saved by Matthew Lewis.

The Oak Inn remain just a point behind the leaders after thrashing Ironworks 11-0 away. Ryan Morris, Alex Gunn, Steve Tomkins, Todd Roberts and Ryan Morris all grabbing two apiece with Sam Kerr getting the other one.

The highest score of the morning went to Oswestry Bell, whose 17-0 win at basement boys Llanymynech keeps them rooted to the foot of the table without a point.

Chris Bishop 4, Josh Thomas 3, Gary Meredith 2, Matt Jones 2, Paul Hughes 2 with Nick Davies, Dan Graham, Nathan Leonard all getting one with even goal-keeper Paul Morris on target, netting from the spot.

Meanwhile Black Lion Colts secured a narrow 1-0 win over Cross Foxes who needed stand-in keeper Carl Lewis to keep them in the game. He made several fine saves before eventually being beaten by an 80th minute Lee Morris header from a Gareth Morgan cross.

Fixtures: Oak Inn v Athletic Market, Malpas v Black Lion Colts, Oswestry Bell v Ironworks, Cross Foxes v Dudleston Heath.

Lions looking to build on victories

AFTER two wins on the bounce, Oswestry Lions will look to make more ground on the leading pack in the County League division one when they head to rock-bottom Cleve Hill on Saturday.

The Oswestry side have moved up to seventh, but will be taking nothing for granted against their basement hosts who themselves will be desperate for points having won just once this season.

Now close to full strength, they can take heart from recent displays with Graham Dyke netting twice in last weekend's 2-1 home win against Wrockwardine Wood Juniors.

The Lions started well with Dyke and Matt Williams both going close with headers from corners, while Gary Windsor brushed the post with an overhead kick.

After a goalless first half, the breakthrough came on the hour mark when Dyke was brought down on the edge of the box and picked himself up to fire home the resulting free kick to the left of the keeper.

Stung by the goal, Wrockwardine then upped their game and got back on terms when meeting in a scramble following a corner. But the Lions were not to be denied and restored their lead when substitute Nigel Jones broke down the left and pulled the ball back from the byline for Dyke to convert his second goal of the game.

The hosts had a couple of chances to increase the margin, with Ashley Dallow seeing a couple of efforts cleared off the line.

Rhyn go wrong with absentees

WESTON Rhyn's hopes of turning up the heat on the County League division one leaders was given a jolt after their winning run was halted with a 4-1 loss at Brown Cleve.

Having climbed to third in the table, Rhyn were downed by the Cleve as the absence of five first teamers took its toll.

Among those missing was forward and skipper Mark Lunt while Jason Leightwood had to go in goal in the absence of a keeper.

And it proved a disappointing outing, despite the visitors getting back into the game when Adam Herbert netted an equaliser after a shot from Nathan Richards rebounded off the keeper.

But hopes of getting anything from the game were dashed as Brown Cleve struck three times in quick succession in the second half to wrap up the points, a couple of the goals coming through defensive errors. They will be out to shrug off that defeat on Saturday when they visit Shifnal Harriers in the Shropshire Junior Cup.

Lunt remains sidelined with a knee ligament problem, Steve Bathers picked up an injury last week while the visitors are unlikely to fill the goalkeeping void in time for the weekend.

On the plus side, Paul Herbert and Ryan Leightwood are set to step back.

Meredith ensures cup progress

MORDA United boss Craig Rogers hailed a whole-hearted team performance as his side progressed to the last 16 of the County Cup – and hopes similar resolve can pave the way for more success in the league.

Gareth Meredith's last gasp goal earned the Weston Road men a fine 2-1 cup win at County League premier division rivals Telford Juniors last week, putting them in good heart for Saturday's tough home league clash with fourth in the table Ludlow Town (2pm).

Rogers said victory was the culmination of improved performances in the last month, with the team starting to gel as a unit.

"We showed great determination and spirit, we're really playing well as a team now as opposed to having a group of individuals which was the case at the start of the season," said Rogers.

"It was a tough tie, but we stuck at it and it was a great result for us. Hopefully we can now have a run in the cup."

He added: "The league remains our priority and we now want to take that performance forward. We're 12 points off the lead with 13 games remaining which is a big ask, but we just want to finish as high as we can."

Shrugged off

There was little between the teams last week, with Morda showing they were up for the battle despite having a number of players out through injury.

The border side led at the interval through Scott Graham who shrugged off the previous week's penalty miss to find the net from Dan Graham's flick.

But the Telford outfit, who have lost just once this season in the league, came back strongly in the second half

following the introduction of substitute Craig Ryan, who immediately proved a handful up front.

The hosts twice hit the woodwork but found a way through to level after Ryan had a shot deflected.

Morda looked to be up against it but, after a lunging tackle from behind on Dan Graham, they were galvanised into action and met fire with fire.

Keeper Sam Jones produced a couple of excellent saves in a man-of-the-match display as the tie looked to be heading to extra time.

But in the 90th minute Morda made the decisive strike when Meredith latched on to a long punt upfield from Jones and neatly nodded past the advancing keeper from inside the box.

● Morda will be holding a race night at the clubhouse after the game on Saturday, with the first race at 8pm.

Waterloo see fine winning run ended

WATERLOO Rovers saw their winning run in the Spar Mid Wales League division one come to an end when they were downed 3-2 at home to Tywyn.

Scott Holly and top scorer Steve Jones kept the third placed hosts in the hunt, but their efforts were to no avail as they suffered a first defeat in eight outings.

Llansantffraid Village failed to stop Rhayader Town returning to the top of the table with a 4-0 win at Treflan.

The villagers had their chances in the first half but succumbed after the break once Keiron Evans was dismissed for his second booking. The visitors took advantage to bag the points through Lance Jones, Ross Johnson, Mike Collister and Tom Edwards.

Dyffryn Banw remain in the lower reaches after succumbing 3-2 at home to Bow Street who took the spoils through a late goal from Rhys Llwyd.

Banw had trailed 2-0 to goals from Dean Evans and Garmon Hafal, but rallied courtesy of James Turner and Bryn Jones.

New boss Mike Barton enjoyed his first win in the league since taking charge at Berriew who prevailed 2-1 at Aberystwyth University, their second win over the students in 10 days.

Both sides missed a penalty, but Berriew were 2-0 up at half time through Hayden Langford and Martyn Ziemann before Dan Pugh pulled one back for the home side in the second period.

Struggling Welshpool Town remain at the foot of the table after slumping 4-1 at home to Carno.

Brave Meifod suffer in cup

MEIFOD, toiling at the foot of the Spar Mid Wales League division two, put up a fight before going out of the Central Wales Cup with a 3-1 exit to visiting New Quay, Andrew Weaver getting their reply.

It was also the end of the road for another second division side Llanfyllin who bowed out 2-1 at Rhosgoch.

Speed to kick off new event

THE Football Association of Wales will launch its Legends Matchday Events at Park Hall when The New Saints host Airbus UK Broughton on Friday November, 25 in the Corbett Sports Welsh Premier (7.45pm).

Attending the inaugural event is current manager and former captain of Wales Gary Speed, who will speak to invited guests, sponsors and season ticket holders before the game in a question and answer session alongside the FAW's Head of PR Ian Gwyn Hughes.

Tickets are priced at £10, which as well as admission to the game, will also include a hot pot meal and match programme, with a combined adult and child ticket costing just £12.

A signed Wales shirt and football will also be raffled during the evening with proceeds going towards the cost of running the club's football academy.

Tickets can be purchased from The Venue at Park Hall or via www.saints-alive.co.uk/shop.



Time for keepy-uppy . . . St Martins Karl Bailey juggles the ball on his way forward during Saints shock cup defeat away at County Premier League side Shifnal United 97.

Reserves braced for a test against top sides Woe for Rangers

Ellesmere Rangers 1 Studley 3

ELLESMERE were condemned to back-to-back Midland Alliance home defeats as they were soundly beaten by lowly but improving Studley.

Just like in last week's 2-0 home defeat to Alvechurch, Ellesmere found themselves a goal behind early on when Paul Dowsett put the visitors in front.

Ian Rowlands levelled on 15 minutes after a neat finish following a mazy run.

But that was to prove as good as it got for the hosts with Jamie Bailey finding the net seven minutes before the break and again in the closing stages to put the game beyond doubt.

"The performance between the two boxes was very good," said joint boss Lee Mills.

"We passed the ball well and got into some good attacking positions. But we conceded three goals we could have done better with and didn't take the chances which came our way."

Goalkeeper Damien Stevens made his Ellesmere debut after Sam Jones rejected Ellesmere's overtures to join from County Premier League side Morda. He replaces Andy Pryce who has re-joined Market Drayton.

having been made in a bid to recruit a new forward.

Left-back Guy Guilford made the most of his switch up front last Saturday with two of the goals while substitute Daryl Davies also netted a brace in the second half.

Rangers never looked back after taking the lead when Mark Coles latched on

to a loose ball after the keeper had parried from a corner, and Guilford then opened his account with a neat finish from a one-on-one.

After the break, Tom Johnson made it 3-0 when pouncing after the keeper had saved before Guilford grabbed a fourth. Davies then completed the rout with a double strike.

SPORT

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Martial Arts

Trophy time for
Welshpool ace
Page 84

Rugby

Eagles flying
after victory
Page 85Oswestry
keep on
track of
leaders

OSWESTRY'S rugby players bid to keep the heat on the South Lancs & Cheshire Two leaders when they make Saturday's trip to mid-table Dukinfield.

The Eagles are nestled nicely behind the leaders in fourth spot, and just five points off the pace.

Last week's 38-17 win over Isle of Man side Ramsey was their fourth straight win, and a bonus point further helped to boost the cause.

With leaders Ruskin Park the visitors to Park Hall the following weekend, the Eagles will be anxious to maintain the momentum ahead of the top of the table clash.

"With 14 teams in the league it makes it a long season but we're just concentrating on one game at a time," said chairman Steve Charmley.

Absentee

"If we can keep most of the team fit, we feel top spot is there for the taking."

Back row forward Sam Wright was the one absentee last week with a hamstring injury, and his tough tackling was missed as Ramsey managed to get over the gain line.

He is unlikely to figure on Saturday, but should return for the big Ruskin Park clash.

Oswestry have been hitting the try trail in recent weeks, with centre Rob Masam bagging a hat-trick last week, taking his tally to six in the last three games.

Welshpool, who were forced to concede their Swalec Bowl clash at Colwyn Bay due to lack of numbers, return to duty in the Welsh League division three (north) when they head to Harlech on Saturday looking to enhance their mid-table status.

Prop in for
expert tips

FORMER Welsh international prop forward Chris Horseman will be holding a special coaching session at COBRA rugby club next month.

The session, at the Meifod club on Thursday, December 8, will run from 7-9pm and is aimed at coaches and players from the area.

Horseman, formerly of Worcester Warriors, is currently senior coach with the North Wales team, and will concentrate on coaching the scrum at senior level.

There will be an outdoor practical session (utilising senior players from the COBRA club) followed by a question and answer session in the clubhouse.

DAVIES TARGETING
WELSH CUP GLORY

THE NEW Saints have got the home start they wanted in the Welsh Cup – and boss Mike Davies believes it's time the full-timers lift the prestigious trophy again.

The Park Hall side have won the famous cup twice, the last occasion being back in 2005, and will be hoping it could be their turn again this season.

After landing a home draw against lower league Bryntirion Athletic in the last 32 next month, director of football Davies admits the Saints have not done themselves justice in past years in the competition.

"It's true to say we should really have done better," he said. "It's a great cup to be involved in, financially it's important to do well in it, but it has not quite happened for us over the last few years."

"Last season we had a few home ties but went out in the semi-final, but hopefully we can go further this time."

"We've got a good record here so we're glad to be at home but Bryntirion will be a tough game as they are the Welsh League champions and will be coming here looking to pull off an upset."

"But the draw has been quite kind to us, we've avoided the teams we wanted to while several of the bigger clubs are facing each other."

Bryntirion will be relishing their chance to topple their high flying hosts, and will draw confidence from the fact they gave last season's Welsh Premier champions Bangor City a fright before losing 2-1.

Massive

The south Wales club feel they should be rubbing shoulders with the likes of TNS in the top flight of Welsh football but were denied promotion despite winning the Welsh League title last season as their ground did not meet the required criteria.

The third round tie will be played on the first weekend in December, before which time Saints will be looking to consolidate pole position in the Corbett Sports Welsh Premier.

It's a massive week for TNS who visited title rivals Neath in the league last night before hosting reigning champions Bangor City on Sunday.

But they appear to have hit form at the right time with Davies delighted with the way his side are shaping up following last Saturday's 4-2 win over Llanelli at Park Hall.

Striker Greg Draper, who scored twice in a man-of-the-match performance last week, has shrugged off a slight groin injury but Chris Seargeant is out with an ankle problem.

Davies and Alex Darlington, meanwhile, have picked the monthly managerial award for October, which followed their success the previous month.

For more see page 87.



Oswestry's British champion Alex Bond in action.

By John Bridgwater

Licence to thrill!
Bond takes title

JUST champion – that's 22-year-old local rider Alex Bond who has lifted the Halo British Series mountain biking crown.

The Selatyn ace tasted glory after the final round in Caersws when, having started from a ranking of 21st, he powered through to take the title from a 232-strong mixed field, winning by four seconds from second placed rider Adam Brayton of Cumbria.

Bond was clocked through the intermediate speed trap at a super fast 35.68 miles per hour over the rocky and gravelled off-road terrain.

He also took second spot in the morning seeding, losing out on the top spot by less than a 10th of a second.

In the run, Bond was 16th through the speed trap which shows his achievement in winning was also due to neat lines and technical skills rather than pure speed alone.

The 2011 season has been his best year in his racing so far, also winning the UK National Downhill Championship title at Llangollen in July and excelling on the World Championship stage.

He also took 19th place finish in the sixth round of the UCI World Cup round at La Bresse France when competing against 233 of the world's best riders, which was a stunning achievement.

"It has been a great year, my best so far, with no serious injuries or big crashes," said a delighted Bond.

"I have enjoyed the challenges of the World Cup. I came 19th in La Bresse but that could have been seventh overall had I not smashed the chain in a heavy contact with a rock. I've got plenty to build on for next year."

Despite his success, Bond is looking for new sponsors for the 2012 campaign. Anyone interested can be contacted by email on al.bond.racing@gmail.com.



Councillor Steve Charmley presents the trophy to the winner of Young Volunteer of the Year Natalie Bathers.

Picture: Pete Shah

Volunteer Natalie given
a reward for her efforts

SPORTING success in Oswestry was recognised when Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin staged the annual Energize Awards at Shrewsbury Town's Greenhous Meadow.

The Energize Awards are held annually to recognise local achievement in sport and physical activity.

And taking the 2011 young volunteer of the award was Natalie Bathers, an athlete, coach and helper at Oswestry Olympians Athletics Club, while Oswestry's Valerie Hanover (of the North Shropshire Special Olympics Group) was also honoured when receiving the William Penny Brookes Trophy for her efforts in local sport.

Welshpool swimmer Daniel Jones (Oswestry Otters) was also runner-up in the junior athlete of the year section.

The event, run in conjunction with the Shropshire Star, was the fifth time that it has been held and it was attended by guests, clubs and organisations from across the county, while special guest speaker was English cricket legend Graham Gooch.

Awards were presented in 12 different cat-

egories and Chris Child, Partnership Director for Energize STW commented: "Congratulations to all of the people who won and were nominated for an Energize Award."

"It is a pleasure to be able to recognise the people, clubs and organisations that are doing such good work across the county."

"Without people like them, and indeed all those for whom we received nominations, there would be fewer opportunities for people to start, stay and succeed in sport and physical activity."

He added: "I would also like to thank everyone who nominated this year."

"The standard of the nominees was exceptionally high and reducing the numbers down to three for each category was very difficult."

"Although we can only acknowledge a small percentage of the people working on volunteering in sport and physical activity at the Energize Awards, we know that there are many people out there doing fantastic work."

For more on the awards see page 8

Pool
chief
grateful
for rest

ALREADY halfway through their season, Welshpool Town's footballers hope a weekend break will help to revive their ailing fortunes.

The Maesydyre men are propping up the Spar Mid Wales League division one with just five points to show from 14 outings.

So they will be happy enough to enjoy a Saturday off, with some players watching the Norway v Wales friendly while several others will be embarking on a game of ten pin bowling.

"We've played more games than any other side so there's no danger of us getting behind with our fixtures," said boss Dave Jones.

"We've decided on a team bonding exercise with a game of ten pin bowling, and we're hoping a change will do us some good."

"It's been frustrating so far, every game we seem to take the lead and then throw it away. It's the same old story, conceding silly goals has been a continual problem and it's something we have to put right."

Pool made the perfect start in last Friday's 4-1 home loss to Carno, going ahead inside the first five minutes through Mike Cockram.

But hopes of going on to seal a much needed win faded when the hosts conceded a sloppy equaliser and they were again breached a second time before the break.

In the second half, a harsh penalty decision killed the game off before second spot kick sealed the Carno win.

After this weekend's break, Welshpool return with a vital visit to fellow strugglers Dolgellau the following Saturday. Dolgellau are the only side they have defeated this season.

Morda ready
for rehearsal

MORDA United have been drawn at home to County League premier division rivals Ludlow Town in the last 16 of the Shropshire Senior Cup.

And the Weston Road men, who were last gasp 2-1 winners at Telford Juniors in the previous round, will have a chance to run the rule over their opponents when the sides meet in the league on Saturday.

For more see page 86.

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